

Fears over employers' checks

Huge growth in vetting by police records

By Quentin Cowdry and Mark Sonster

MORE than a million people a year are being vetted by prospective employers with access to police records. In January and February alone, the names of 27,500 people seeking county council positions passed through the police national computer. Dozens of other employers are entitled to make similar checks.

They range from local and national government to doctors and dentists, from the Atomic Energy Authority and the Royal Mint to the BBC and British Telecom. The growing use of the computer for such purposes is prompting widespread concern that civil liberties might be threatened.

Last year, the computer handled about 500,000 requests for information from government departments, and a survey by the Association of County Councils suggests that a similar number are being vetted for council jobs. On top of that, an unknown number of people applying for private sector jobs are being screened, almost certainly taking the total past the million mark.

No official figures are released on the number of such checks being made or on the detail of what kinds of workers are being vetted, although the Home Office has issued a list of occupations that can be subject to screening.

Checks have to be justified either on grounds of national

security or in the interest of protecting children. The decision on whether to allow such vetting lies with chief constables, who generally nominate a senior officer to undertake the task.

A growing cross-section of opinion, spanning MPs from all parties, the civil liberties lobby and some senior police officers, believes there is an urgent need for the system of criminal record keeping and distribution to be made more accountable and that pressure for yet more widespread vetting should be resisted.

A report to the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs found that much of the information held by the National Identification Bureau was either out-of-date or inaccurate. That did not surprise pressure groups such as the National Council for Civil Liberties, which are calling for the Data Protection Registrar's watchdog role to embrace criminal records. Other groups, including the home affairs committee, believe the records should be kept by an independent, publicly-accountable agency, though police and Customs would have direct access to files.

The vetting requests revealed by the Association of County Councils survey involved teachers, social workers, school caretakers and librarians, youth and play-group workers, sports instructors, nursery nurses and adoption, and fostering officers. All had been provisionally appointed, pending the outcome of their vetting.

All of the applicants should have declared any previous criminal convictions, as people seeking positions offering "substantial access" to children are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, 1974, which allows most offenders' convictions to become spent after set periods.

The police national computer revealed that 736 had tried to conceal convictions. Of those, 28 had serious criminal records - nine having been convicted of assault, five of sexual offences and 13 for thefts and burglaries. One man seeking to resume custody of a child who had been in care had eight convictions for offences including burglary and gross indecency.

Miss Kate Main, of the association's education department, defended councils' zealotry towards vetting: "The Home Office guidelines give councils some latitude about which posts should be vetted, but few opt for a narrow interpretation and who can really blame them?"

They only have to make one mistake and there could be a tragedy." She found it reassuring that only 36 candidates had been rejected - 0.01 per cent of the total number screened and 5 per cent of those who tried to hide convictions. That clearly indicated councils were observing the 1974 Act and discounting minor or irrelevant offences, she claimed.

Miss Main said most councils now routinely vetted, with police help, anybody provisionally appointed to any one of 24 job categories listed in a 1988 Home Office circular. That circular revised guidelines drawn up two years earlier after a council-approved baby sitter with a record for sex offences murdered four-year-old Marie Payne.

The 1988 guidelines tried to contain the enormous rise in vetting that followed the Marie Payne case by limiting checks to jobs where the employee could be in regular "one-to-one" contact with children. A growing number of councils, however, think the line has been too tightly drawn and that vetting should be extended to cover school taxi and bus drivers, dinner assistants, groundsmen and leisure centre staff. Some chief constables have succumbed to the pressure. But others, including some of the country's most reflective senior officers, have resisted.

Mr Neil Taggart, chief whip of the Labour-dominated West Yorkshire Police Authority, thinks all taxi drivers should be vetted, regardless of who their main customers are. "The vast majority of council employees," he said, are not bothered about the fact that a prospective employee got involved in a brawl 20 years ago. What is crucial is that in West Yorkshire we have some convicted rapists who are driving taxis and that has to be wrong." In one case, the mother of a rape victim spotted her daughter's assailant driving a cab in Leeds.

Sir John Wheeler, chairman of the home affairs committee, is unperturbed by the rise in vetting, given the sharp increase in terrorism in recent years and apparent increases in sexual and violent crime. But he adds: "The concern is that vetting is done in a professional and accountable way. There is no profound civil liberties issue in there being a proper, accountable means of vetting."

Police campaign, page 2
Mistaken identity, page 2
Tell us more, page 14

Thatcher years have failed poor, MPs say

By John Lewis

THE Government's argument that the Thatcher years have benefited the poor will be challenged tomorrow by a report which suggests that the statistics have been wrong.

The Institute of Fiscal Studies, carrying out a report for the Commons Social Services Select Committee, has summed up a serious error in previous calculations by government statisticians.

The original data suggested that from 1981 to 1985 living standards for the whole

population went up by 4.8 per cent while those for the poorest 10 per cent jumped by 8.4 per cent. The corrected figures demonstrate, however, that average living standards increased by 5.4 per cent but rose by only 2.6 per cent for the poorest 10 per cent.

The committee's report will make plain that the "trickle-down" process is not working as the Government claims.

Failed policy, page 7
Leading article, page 15

Frosty response to explorers' Arctic walk claim

By Robin Young

SIR Ranulph Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes, newly returned himself from the Arctic wastes, cried "foul" yesterday against the claim by two Norwegians to have become the first people to have walked unaided to the North Pole. There was, the explorer says, a third man.

As with the 1911 race when Roald Amundsen beat Captain Robert Scott to the South Pole, it is the Norwegian flag which flutters over the ice cap, but Erling Kagge, aged 28, and Boerge Ousland, aged 27, are accused of not having got there without help.

The support Sir Ranulph claims of came when a third Norwegian team member, Geir Ramby, who had injured his back, was airlifted out on day 14 of their 500-mile trek across the Arctic from Ward Hunt Island off

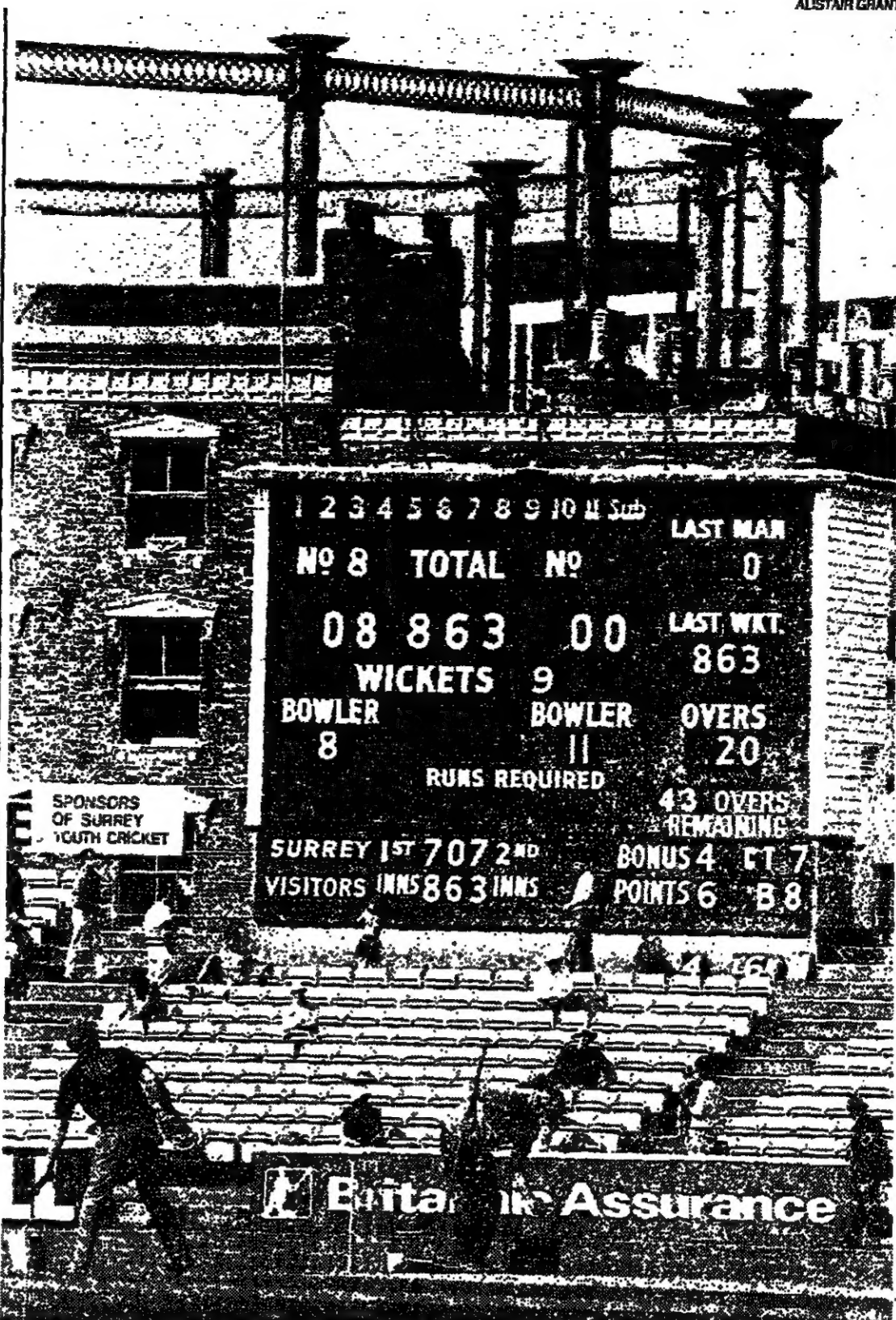
Canada. Sir Ranulph, officially acclaimed as the "world's greatest living explorer" by the Guinness Book of Records, was forced to abandon his own fourth attempt at one of the last uncharted pinnacles of human endeavour by melting ice and lack of food when he was just 90 miles from his target. He has only been back a week and is still recovering from the effects of snow blindness which could rule out any further Arctic expeditions for him.

"The Norwegians have done very well, but they have still not conquered this particular challenge," he said. "People might ask why grown men can spend their time worrying about the rules involved in walking unsupported to the North Pole. But others agonize about the rules of football, say, so why not in polar walking?" His companion on the

march, Dr Michael Stroud, said Kagge, a law student, and Ousland, a deep-sea diver, had the benefit of the third man to help pull their food, fuel, tent, radio equipment and spares for the first 10 days of the walk before the back injury.

Dr Stroud, aged 35, a specialist in the effects of extreme climate for the RAF Institute of Aviation Medicine, said: "Having a third man to share the load amounted to considerable support."

He said that neither British nor Russian polar authorities would recognize the Norwegians' journey as unsupported. A Russian expedition to the North Pole last year was disbarred from claiming the "first unsupported" accolade because of similar airborne assistance for an injured team member.



Top score: Groundsmen tend the pitch at the Oval yesterday after Lancashire scored a record 863

Home Office to study call for football fixture veto

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

THE Home Office is to examine a call from the Chief Constable of Dorset for the police to be empowered to veto football fixtures they believe likely to attract violence.

Accusing the Football League of ignoring a police request to reschedule Saturday's match between Bournemouth and Leeds United, Mr Brian Weight said he would be consulting the Association of Chief Police Officers with a view to approaching the Home Office for the veto power.

Mr Denis Howell, the shadow Sports Minister, said Labour would press for a statement from Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister of Sport, today. Labour was opposed to giving the police powers to veto fixtures. "We do not want football and sport decided by the police. Football is a lawful occasion and the job of the police is to police lawful occasions," he said.

It appears increasingly likely that the ban on English teams in Europe will continue in the aftermath of Saturday's incidents involving Leeds supporters. Mr Lennart Johansson, President of the European Football Union, said yesterday: "It looked so good. But after this I am very sceptical about letting the English clubs back."

He said that Uefa would decide whether to lift the ban on May 24, before the opening of the World Cup finals in Italy. Until the weekend it had been assumed that the conduct of England fans in Italy would determine whether English clubs were to be allowed back.

Mr Weight said yesterday: "The Football League have got to listen to us. I am furious with the arrogant way we were treated. We knew what would happen."

He told BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*: "I am writing to the Football League tomorrow and I am going to tell them, after the hooligans had committed all the damage, all the indecent assaults on women, smashing shop windows, and the beating up of 12-year-old supporters of Bournemouth, that I hold the Football League responsible."

"They attacked us with bricks and injured my officers. One of my officers, if he had not been wearing a Nato helmet, would have been killed... I asked them on many occasions to

Continued on page 24, col 7

Forgery inquiry, page 3
Diary, page 14
Uefa sceptical, page 46

Batsmen score in runaway weather

By Robin Young

BATSMEN took advantage of fine weather and benign pitches yesterday as perspiring bowlers - and motorists - toiled through the last day of the Bank holiday weekend.

The Lancashire left-hander Neil Fairbrother made 366, the highest individual score seen at the Oval, eclipsing Sir Leonard Hutton's 364 against Australia in 1938. Fairbrother was the main contributor to Lancashire's 863 against Surrey, which beat their highest of 801 against Somerset in 1895 and passed the best in a county championship match at the ground.

A small consolation for Surrey, who scored 707 for nine declared, was that they share a record aggregate of 1,650 runs for county cricket. Yesterday was the first day for a week in which temperatures in Britain failed to exceed those in the Mediterranean. Temperatures remained above the seasonal norm, however, with the South enjoying most of the sun and a comfortable 19°C (66°F).

At least three people died as thousands of holidaymakers tried to beat the rush home by making an early start, but many did not avoid heavy jams. One of the worst areas was at Conwy, north Wales, where by noon there was a queue several miles long. Police blamed "idiotic driving" for an eight-mile tailback on the M5 between Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare.

Forecast, page 24
Match report, page 46

Gorbachov attacks separatism

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachov yesterday launched a fierce attack on separatism and the "abuse" of glasnost for nationalist ends. He also condemned the "extremist slogans" at the May Day parade in Red Square, dismissing it as proof of the instigators' understanding that their time was running out.

Responding to those who have called for stronger leadership from the top - a belief prevalent in military circles - Mr Gorbachov said there would be "no return to Stalinist repressions". In what may have been an oblique reference to the KGB, he

stressed the importance of the law and its observance "including by those whose job it is to enforce it".

Mr Gorbachov was addressing several hundred benedicted Second World War veterans. The Kremlin meeting, also addressed by newly-promoted Marshal Dmitri Yazov, the Defence Minister, was the first formal event of the week's celebrations for the 45th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe.

The main Victory Day celebrations will be tomorrow, which is a national holiday. A full-dress military parade through Red Square is planned, and according to the Defence Ministry, it will take the form of a historical pageant giving a "retrospective glance at history".

The parade, which was announced six weeks ago, will cost an estimated 1.5 million roubles (£1.5 million). It has been widely seen as an attempt by the leadership to placate the military which has generally lost out as a result of President Gorbachov's changes in Soviet domestic and foreign policies. Although five-yearly anniversaries are always celebrated more lavishly than those in between, this year's Victory Day seems

to have been given a particularly high profile.

For several days now the Soviet media have been dominated by reminiscences of the war years. At the weekend Mr Gorbachov announced a list of 22 new Heroes of the Soviet Union.

In a new admission, General Pyotr Lushch, the Commander-in-Chief of the Warsaw Pact forces, said yesterday that Soviet losses in the Second World War had exceeded 27 million people.

Photograph, page 8
Kremlin contact, page 8
Cash shortage, page 25

INSIDE

Bid to free hostages

In a move to open the way for a deal that could set free four Belgians held hostage in Beirut, the governing board of Louvain-la-Neuve, Brussels, has recommended early parole for Nasser Saeed, a Palestinian terrorist serving a life sentence for a grenade attack on Jewish children.

Mr Emmanuel Houetkins, his wife and their two teenage children were kidnapped aboard a yacht in the Mediterranean in 1987. Page 24

Hunt for gang

Cheshire police are searching for a group of bogus social workers who called on families claiming to have instructions to examine their young children. Page 3

Teacher survey

Schemes to attract more teachers to the shortage subjects of mathematics, physics and technology are in danger of running out of steam, according to a survey published yesterday. Page 5

One currency

Europe's leading businesses are in favour of a single European currency to replace existing national monetary units according to a survey to be published by the National Institute of Social and Economic Research. Page 25

Mail moves

A four-page Special Report on the Royal Mail, highlighting its use of new technology in the improvement of its services, begins on. Page 31

Golf triumph

José María Olazábal, of Spain, secured a thrilling one-stroke victory over Ian Woosnam, of Wales, in the Benson and Hedges International golf tournament at St Mellion, Cornwall. Page 4.

INDEX

Arts	18
Business	25-30
Court & social	16
Fashion	19
Law Report	21
Legal	25
Leading articles	20, 21
Letters	15
Obituary	16
Sport	39-46
TV & Radio	23

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An alarming case of mistaken identity

By Quentin Cowdry and Mark Souster

The Conservative-dominated committee argued that it was practical and ethically more proper that the police, who were only one of the users of criminal records, should be solely responsible for holding the files and issuing information.

The Home Office said the Government's position had not changed from last December when Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, said the Government wanted effective and efficient management and the best value for the taxpayer.

The National Union of Civil and Public Servants said



Computer victim: Mr Neil Foster of Marlborough, who has a clean licence, was accused of driving while disqualified after being mistaken for his banned namesake.

By Mark Songster

based on incorrect information stored on the police national computer. The police had the wrong Neil Foster. He had never been banned, but the police action resulted in him losing his job, his car, his savings, and threatened his liberty.

The problems for Mr. Foster, from Marlborough, Wiltshire, began in August 1987, when, after being stopped in a routine police vehicle check, he was accused of driving while disqualified. His protestations of innocence went unheeded.

For four months Mr Foster, who has never committed an offence in his life, fought to clear his name. He was solicited by Mr Rosalee Oswald, claiming that it was a classic case of mistaken identity because the police incorrectly insisted his middle name was John. Mr Oswald said: "We became amateur detectives for four months. It was a pretty devastating time for Mr Foster. The consequences for him if we did not find the other man were serious. He was charged with an imprisonable offence."

After a nationwide search for Neil Foster, they finally tracked down the Somerset man of the same age who had been disqualified from driving by Yeovil magistrates. A relieved Mr Foster was formally cleared at Marlborough magistrates' court in January 1988. But in the meantime he had lost his job because his car

Employers with a right to check

CRIMINAL records are held on seven million people, five million at the National Identification Bureau (NIB) and two million on the police computer, which also holds details of stolen and suspect vehicles, disqualified drivers, and establishments and places of entertainment; Criminal Injuries Compensation Board; Civil Aviation Authority; Crown Agents; Crown Estates Commissioners; Police Complaints Authority; UK Atomic Energy Authority.

The computer, which came into service in 1974, handles more than 120,000 inquiries a day. It will be replaced by the PNC2 later this year, after which the criminal records will be computerised.

The new computer is likely to be used not only by the police, but also by the courts which will be able to update criminal records far more

Royal Mint; national museums and galleries; the Traffic Commissioners; the Office Receiver; the Gaming Board of Great Britain; the Securities and Investments Board; Office of Fair Trading; other police forces; prosecuting authorities; courts; judges and magistrates; local authority committees for the appointment of JPs; prison service; probation service.

Research organizations; British Telecom; BBC; Post Office; the British Council; Medical Council; the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting; authorities and organizations responsible for the care and supervision of those who are vulnerable, such as the young, handicapped and infirm; member countries of the Extradition countries to which the Extradition Acts, the Fugitive Offenders Act and the Indictable Offences Act apply; and countries with which the Government has reciprocal arrangements for the exchange of information about convicted persons and persons awaiting trial.

Officers say cases of misuse falling

THE confidentiality of information on the police national computer has long been a source of concern, with unscrupulous police officers using the computer to find out the private lives of people. The computer which meant that anyone who tapped into the data-bank could be almost instantly identified.

scrupulous police officers known to have accepted payment to pass on information, usually to private investigators or security companies (Mark Souster writes).

Inquiries by *The Times*, however, suggest misuse of the

insanity defended.

"There will always, as long as you have human beings involved in the collection or accessing functions, be scope for corruption. But overall, I don't think it's a problem any more."

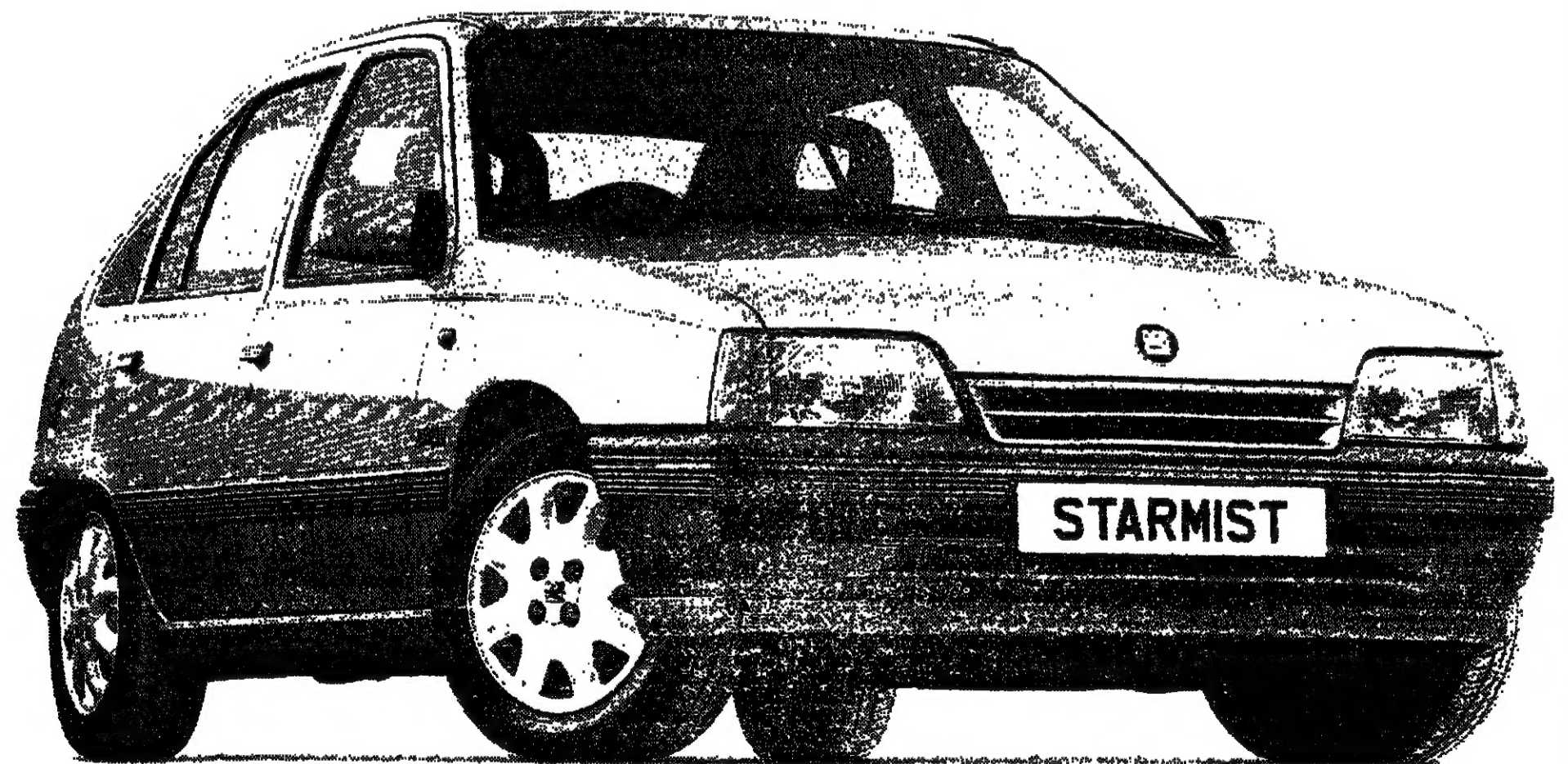
computer has dropped significantly since last year when three policemen were given suspended prison sentences for passing information to a private investigator. That would support the Home Office's assertion that information from the computer is disclosed in only "highly defined circumstances".

One chief constable told *The Times*:

The Times that corruption was rife before the advent of the national computer. The Home Affairs Select Committee two weeks ago criticized the "haphazard" manner in which information from the National Identification Bureau was made avail-

The chief constable claimed, however, that new technology made the job of the "crooked cop" far more difficult, especially now that extra safeguards had been built into

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Nuclear test

RSC TOUR 2002
The Royal Shakespeare Company is touring in dance in February, in crisis, resurrected. The British Touring Company has found a new home. The British Touring Company has found a new home. The British Touring Company has found a new home.

Hospital attack
Police were alerted to a man who had assaulted a girl and carried her into a Great Ormond Street hospital's emergency central London ward. The victim was moving from a Scottish accent to a thick T-shirt.

Photocopy

Gang posing as care staff may have struck again

By Peter Davenport

DETECTIVES in Cheshire hunting a group of bogus social workers who called on families claiming to have instructions to examine their children said yesterday that the visitors could be the gang responsible for almost 20 similar incidents around the county.

The latest cases, in a series of seemingly connected incidents that began on January 30, occurred in the Nantwich area, near Crewe, on Sunday. Two men, both described as well groomed, called at three houses and claimed to be social workers with instructions to examine the children living there.

A red saloon car, possibly a Vauxhall Cavalier, was seen nearby on each occasion with two other people inside, one a young woman with long, fair hair. The descriptions of her and of the car are similar to those given in other cases.

The series of incidents began in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, on January 30, when two women posing as social workers examined two young children in front of their mother after asking them to undress completely. Several days later, one of the women returned, accompanied by a man, saying that they had warrants to take the children into care. They left after their authority was challenged by the mother.

Over the following weeks, a rash of similar incidents were reported elsewhere in South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Humberside, as well as in Wiltshire, Somerset, and Greater Manchester.

South Yorkshire police have set up a special investigation team of 12 detectives amid fears, expressed by senior officers, that the incidents

could be the prelude to an attempt to kidnap a child or that the gang seeks perverted sexual gratification by the intimate examination of young children.

In the latest incidents, in Cheshire, the bogus social workers left after being refused access by the parents when they failed to produce identification.

Chief Inspector Ann Pyke, of Cheshire Police, said: "It is too early to say positively that there is a link, but we are looking at it very closely. There are several similarities. There are now almost 20 incidents spread far afield, and a light red car seems to be involved. Our main concern now is that people heed the warnings and do not let anyone into their homes."

One mother in the Cheshire incidents told police that one of the bogus social workers said that they had been looking at her son, aged two, before calling at the house.

In earlier cases, visitors have also posed as officials from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Both police and the organization have warned parents not to let anyone examine their children without insisting on identification. If still in doubt, they should contact the organization that the caller claims to represent.

Police were yesterday treating as suspicious an incident in which a woman resident in the village of Milnthorpe, near Kendal, Cumbria, was asked the whereabouts of the "adoption agency" by a man driving a red sports car. He was said to be about 30 and 5ft 10in. It is not known whether his passenger, wearing a hat, was male or female.



Knight errand: Keen watch on Mr Paul Richardson as he arrives at St Giles Cripplegate Church, City, yesterday, for a 900th-anniversary fair

Ticket forger blamed for football violence

By Adam Fresco

POLICE investigating the fighting between rival football supporters at Bournemouth over the holiday weekend are looking for a forger who, they say, is partly to blame for the violence by distributing hundreds of tickets with the same number.

Supt Les Burns, of Dorset police, said many forged tickets were printed for Saturday's match by a master forger. He said: "They were good forgeries, all bearing the same number. It is worrying as it makes a nonsense of crowd safety." By yesterday, there had been 100 arrests in connection with the violence. Most of those held were Leeds supporters and police said more arrests were expected.

Meanwhile, three men alleged to have carried out a revenge attack on Leeds supporters, appeared before Bournemouth magistrates yesterday.

Mr George Morrison, aged 27, of Lytton Road, Bournemouth, Mr Martin Pettitt, 23, of Library Road, Parkstone, Poole, and Mr Simon Kerley, 24, of Farwell Road, Parkstone, are accused of causing grievous bodily harm to Mr David Maddox, of Bradford. They are also alleged to have been in possession of offensive weapons.

Mr Maddox was among Leeds supporters attacked outside a wine bar in Bournemouth on Sunday.

He was hit and kicked unconscious and is in "an extremely poor condition" in Poole General Hospital. The three, who appeared in court in white paper boiler suits because their clothes had been taken for forensic science tests, were given conditional bail.

Three other Bournemouth men Mr Martin Littlecott, 29, of Lytton Road, Mr Nicholas Barnett, 27, of Fraser Road, and Mr David Cooper, 26, of Tregonwell Road, were accused of possessing offensive weapons. They

were given conditional bail until 17 July. David Andrews, 26, of Union Street, Selston, Nottinghamshire, who admitted using threatening words and behaviour on May 5, was fined £350 and bound over for a year.

Mark Bryan, 29, of Cavendish Street, Lancaster, was fined £1,000 and bound over for two years in the sum of £500 after throwing a bottle at a police car. Andrew Edwards, 27, of Manor Road, Rothwell, Leeds, was fined £750 and bound over in the sum of £500 after admitting threatening people outside a restaurant.

Sport, page 46

Bail plea by lorry driver fails

A GREEK public prosecutor yesterday refused bail to a British lorry driver accused of transporting part of an alleged Iraqi "supergun" through Greece, but he passed the case on to an investigating magistrate for a final decision later this week.

The bail petition from Mr George Ashwell, aged 26, of Northampton, was rejected on the ground that he might leave Greece before a trial.

Mr Ashwell's lawyers based the bail request on the claim that their client was not aware of the nature of his lorry's load. He is being held in prison in the western port city of Patras.

Nuclear leak

The fast reactor at the Dounreay nuclear plant in Caithness has been shut down because of a leak last month. Experts, who had to wait until the reactor cooled, were last night investigating the discharge of sodium which, a spokesman for the plant emphasized, was not radioactive.

RSC tour saved

The Royal Shakespeare Company's 16-week regional tour, in danger of cancellation in February during a cash crisis, has been resurrected. The Arts Council has found extra backing and British Telecom has "substantially increased" its sponsorship.

Hospital attack

Police were yesterday hunting a man who indecently assaulted a girl of 11 whom he enticed into a room at the Great Ormond Street children's hospital in London by saying he was moving furniture. He had a Scottish accent and wore a striped T-shirt.

Call for talks on prison numbers

CHIEF probation officers are seeking early talks with the Government on plans to reduce the prison population. The Association of Chief Officers of Probation said it was ready to discuss changes ahead of reforms detailed in the Government's Criminal Justice White Paper.

Mr Gordon Read, the chairman, who is chief probation officer for Devon, said: "Chief probation officers would gladly enter discussions now with the Government and all criminal justice agencies to accelerate changes that do not require legislation."

The Government plans to limit the use of imprisonment for less serious offenders by making courts consider a range of community punishments contained in reports drawn up by probation officers.

The association said probation officers could act as "gatekeepers" to keep minor offenders and people with social, health, or welfare problems out of the courts. They could also supervise more serious offenders serving community penalties or parole.

But it attacked electronic tagging of criminals outside prison, and said plans for dealing with young offenders were "based on an ideal of good parenting out of touch with the reality of many young people's lives."

Eight staff were injured yesterday when fighting female prisoners turned on them at Risley Remand Centre, Cheshire, the Prison Officers' Association said.

Prison officers at Walton Jail, Liverpool, have voted by 400 to 50 in favour of industrial action to try to prevent trouble-makers formerly at Strangeways Prison, Manchester, being transferred there.

Prison Officers' Association members say the prison already has 1,350 inmates, far more than the 900 it is

supposed to accommodate. A rooftop protest by 10 inmates over conditions and overcrowding in an Aids separation unit at Mountjoy Jail, Dublin, was near to an end last night amid accusations that the Government was ignoring the urgent need for penal reform in Ireland (Edward Gorman writes).

The prisoners had scrambled on to the roof on Sunday. However, by last night only two were left after eight had given themselves up.

The protest coincided with the conference of the Irish Prison Officers' Association in Galway, which was told by visiting British delegates that the Irish prison service face the same problems as the British and that a riot and protest on the scale of Strangeways could happen.

Yesterday, opposition politicians joined the mounting criticism of Mr Charles Haughey's government over the affair. Mr Jim O'Keefe, justice spokesman for Fine Gael, said the Mountjoy protest highlighted the government's "failure to face up to the many problems in our prisons and the urgent need for penal reform."

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MAN IN THE NEWS

Dark horse in the Canterbury race

By Ruth Gledhill

BISHOP John Waine, the "dark horse" in the race to become the Archbishop of Canterbury, yesterday refused to inflame speculation which has him running strongly to succeed Dr Robert Runcie.

Bishop Waine, aged 59, and last year appointed Clerk of the Closet to the Queen, was possibly the most surprised of all churchmen to see his name appear in a form book up to now dominated by Archbishop Robert Eames of Armagh, Dr John Habgood, Archbishop of York and the Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford.

He says he has barely given the matter a moment's thought and is immersed in plans for a decade of evangelism in his diocese, the second largest in the country, with 2.5 million people. It has a high concentration of inner city areas in east London and rural parishes in north Essex.

One of his vicars said: "He is very personable and fits in well with society. People who talk to him think he is wonderful. Politically, I think he is moderately left-wing but not at all radical. If he was

appointed, nothing would change.

"He would be a good man to keep the thing on the road for another 10 years. He is a very strong candidate because no one will say a word against him."

"He has a strong social conscience. He is a good politician and a diplomat. His only weakness is his education. He was never at Eton, Oxford or in the Guards."

Bishop Waine said of himself: "I'm an enigma."

The bishop's short entry in *Who's Who* is an epitome of humility. He was unusually young, aged 45, when first made a bishop, at Stafford. That followed Prescot Grammar School, Manchester University, Ridley Hall theological college, and 20 years in parishes in Liverpool.

"I do know some of the problems of high unemployment, vandalism and the hopelessness in inner cities."

Bathe said he was surprised by the speculation. "Someone wrote to me from one of my old parishes and said he had put some money on me. He was planning to give the proceeds to the church. I would like the church to have the money but I think he may have backed the wrong horse."

The Anglican Evangelical Assembly almost unanimously passed a motion at the end of its weekend meeting at Hoddessden Park, Hertfordshire, yesterday listing the chief qualities needed by the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

What the motion meant was spelled out by the Rev Peter Broadbent, vicar of Trinity St Michael, Harrow, and a member of the General Synod. No one contradicted him when he said that what they were being asked to do was to pass a motion which said: "We don't want Habgood."

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Dismay at plan to sell paintings

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

THE Royal Holloway and Bedford New College art collection is to be broken up, despite passionate objections from the heritage lobby.

The college council has decided to ask the Charities Commission if it can sell three of its most valuable paintings by Turner, Constable and Gainsborough, to raise funds for a "new academic plan for the 1990s". It will start with Turner's seapiece, "Van Tromp going about to please his masters", which could be worth millions, and will then sell the Constable and Gainsborough, if necessary.

The proceeds, according to the college's May Bulletin, will be used to set up an endowment fund, to be used mainly to restore the founder's buildings — at an estimated cost of £300,000 a year over the next decade — to build a new college hall and to maintain the picture gallery, now costing more than £80,000 a year.

The news was greeted with dismay by the heritage world, which sees the sale as a betrayal of Thomas Holloway, the Victorian pill manufacturer turned philanthropist, who spent a fortune founding the women's college in the 1880s. "London university should hang its head in shame," Sir Hugh Leggatt, secretary of Heritage in Danger, said. "It is typical of what is happening in the later half of the 20th century."

If the Charity Commissioners do not put a stop to it, he said, similar sales could be expected by other institutions tempted to realize their assets. Other campaigners argue that the Department of Education should provide sufficient funding for the college to avoid the sale.

Confirming the plan, Professor Dorothy Wedderburn, the college's principal, said the decision had been passed by a vote of 39 to one. "The paintings are only part of the total benefaction," she said. "Holloway's priority was establishing an institution for higher education."

She said there were no plans to sell any of the core collection of 76 Victorian paintings, which includes "The Princes in the Tower" by Millais, and Edwin Landseer's "God proposes — man disposes." But campaigners say that this is inconsistent. Although the three paintings precede the Victorian period in date, they are just as much part of the collection, which is a unique record of high Victorian taste.

The council's decision comes after problems in 1988, when it first approached the Charities Commission informally. Mr Robin Guthrie, Chief Charities Commissioner, said then that "the pictures were given separately by an indenture for the decoration of the college buildings. In other words they are not viewed as part of the educational endowment."

He gave a provisional go-ahead. Now the college is putting in a formal application, and the assumption is that it will be given permission.

The 1988 troubles passed when the college turned to other sources of funding, not least a gift of around £250,000 from Christie's.

In 1982, after swingeing government cuts, the college was forced to merge with London University's Bedford College.

Bunkers of the golfing kind come to bandit country

By Edward Gorman
Irish Affairs Correspondent

INTREPID Western diplomats living in Kabul at the height of the Afghan war proved that you can play golf almost anywhere, even if the layout of bunkers can change dramatically between shots.

Now an Irish farmer, tired of dwindling profits in the beef industry and who has never played a round in his life, is about to prove, or so he hopes, that golf can triumph in the "bandit country" of south Armagh, perhaps the most notorious — and, for British soldiers, certainly the most dangerous — area

of the United Kingdom. Ashfield golf club will be the first in south Armagh when it opens for business next month. The course is the brainchild of Mr James Quinn, a softly-spoken man with modest ambitions for golf as a tonic for a troubled community.

"We feel sorry south Armagh has the image that it has and we hope this will give it a boost," he said while preparing yesterday for the opening. "It will help to take people's minds off the troubles. A lot of young lads want to join the course, which is great because there's very high unemployment — so maybe this will encourage them

to take up the sport." Mr Quinn, aged 46, a father of four, decided to go ahead with the conversion of his farm after golfing experts told him the rolling green fields would make a stunning course.

He hired Mr Frank Ainsworth, one of Ireland's top green-keepers and designers, to lay out the 18 holes. Now, more than £300,000 later, the club is ready for the first tee-off with more than 400 prospective members planning to pay an annual subscription of £200.

The course lies just three miles from the border between Crossmaglen and Cullyhanna, a region of sweeping natural beauty tragically

scarred by violence and through which the security forces are unable to travel by road for fear of IRA land mines. Like many in Northern Ireland, Mr Quinn has put the troubles to the back of his mind and believes they will not affect the golf.

"We don't see any danger at all. The course is a challenge to the good golfer. I don't think there's anything to be afraid of coming to south Armagh. The people here are no threat to anybody."

One problem is the continuous low-level flying by army helicopters. These have proved a nightmare for Mr Quinn's green-keeper who had to start the 18th green three times

after newly-sown grass seeds were blown away by helicopters landing near by. Another problem was to avoid the electricity pylons and overhead cables of the cross-border power line which have never been repaired since they were bombed by the IRA 15 years ago.

One of the first to hit a few practice balls was Mr Seamus Mallon, SDLP MP for Newry and Armagh. He said: "It's an imaginative and courageous venture and I have no doubt it will be a tremendous success. Like most cynics, the laugh will be on the other side of their faces because so many have applied for membership."

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Scheme
end term
shortage
criticised

More pupils aid scheme

More pupils are to benefit from a scheme to help them with their schoolwork. The scheme, which is run by the Department of Education, will provide grants to schools to help them with the costs of providing extra help for pupils who are having difficulties. The grants will be used to pay for extra teachers, teaching assistants, and other staff who can provide the extra help. The scheme is aimed at pupils who are having difficulties with their schoolwork, and who are not able to keep up with the rest of the class. The grants will be used to pay for extra help for these pupils, and to help them to catch up with the rest of the class. The scheme is a very important one, and it is hoped that it will help many pupils to succeed in their schoolwork.

Campaign child road

A WIDE campaign is being launched to raise awareness of the dangers of children on the roads. The campaign is aimed at parents and children, and is designed to help them to understand the risks of children being on the roads. The campaign will include a series of posters, leaflets, and other materials, which will be distributed to schools and other organisations. The campaign is a very important one, and it is hoped that it will help to reduce the number of accidents involving children on the roads. The campaign is a very important one, and it is hoped that it will help to reduce the number of accidents involving children on the roads. The campaign is a very important one, and it is hoped that it will help to reduce the number of accidents involving children on the roads.

مكتبة الأمل

Schemes to end teacher shortages criticized

By David Tytler, Education Editor

SCHEMES to attract more teachers to the shortage subjects of mathematics, physics and technology are in danger of running out of steam, according to a survey commissioned by the Government but published by the Labour Party yesterday.

Mr Jack Straw, Labour's frontbench spokesman on education, said that he was releasing the final report from Bath University because the Government had placed it in the library of the House of Commons where it was unlikely to be seen by the public.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said, however,

More join pupils' aid scheme

By Our Education Editor

SIXTEEN more schools have been admitted to the assisted places scheme which subsidizes annual fees for bright pupils whose families cannot afford the full cost.

This brings to 294 the number of schools taking part, and takes the number of places available closer to the Government's 35,000 target.

About 4,000 places - many in the North-east - have not, however, been allocated and the Head Masters' Conference, which represents 230 independent schools, is to investigate why some areas attract fewer applications. The highest take-up rate is 99 per cent in the South-west.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said: "The admission of the new schools will open up this highly successful scheme in certain regions of the country where access has been limited."

Mr Gerald Vines, director of the Independent Schools Information Service, said: "I am delighted."

The new schools are Ashville College, Harrogate, (annual boarding fees £5,355); Austin Friars School, Carlisle, (£4,242); Barnard Castle, Co Durham (£4,761); Derby High School, (day fees £2,700); Ellesmere College, Shropshire, (£6,540); Framlingham College, Woodbridge, Suffolk (£5,793); Hipperholme Grammar, Halifax, West Yorkshire; Holy Child School, Birmingham (£4,497); The King's School, North Tyne-side (day fees £2,175); Kingsley School, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, (£4,770); Ryde School, Isle of Wight (£4,791); School of St Mary & St Anne, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, (£5,970); Silcoates School, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, (£5,097); St Joseph's College, Stoke-on-Trent, (day fees £1,791); Tees-side High School, Cleveland, (day fees £2,214); Wrekin College, Telford, Shropshire, (£5,970).

that the report showed that the bursary scheme, providing £1,300 a year to pay for training, was attracting more teachers into the classroom. There was nothing sinister in not publishing the report.

The three-year investigation into government initiatives to meet teacher shortages shows that bursaries have persuaded experienced people to enter the classroom to teach mathematics, physics, and craft design and technology.

The researchers report that 55 per cent of recipients last year said they could not have entered teaching without the money.

Most teaching students, though, became aware of the bursary after they had considered entering teaching and in 1988-9 less than 10 per cent said they had chosen a particular course in order to qualify for the payment.

Despite the Government's efforts, the report concludes that "the number of students enrolling on pre-service teacher education course in the shortage subjects, after an initial boost, have failed to reach expectations or desired totals".

The report says new short courses have attracted recruits but the researchers add that some potential teachers remain lost to the profession because they do not qualify for funding from local authorities.

The retraining of existing teachers in a new subject is an effective way of overcoming shortages but the researchers say that a "pressing need exists for national funding of long-term retraining courses".

The researchers say that the most likely explanation for the fall-off in recruits is that the bursary may have attracted a "finite and diminishing pool" of mature students who saw the bursary as providing the chance to make the move. The report recommends that bursaries should continue at least for the time being.

The Department of Education and Science last night said the report was never intended for wider publication. "In any event the report confirms the effectiveness of the bursary scheme."

Mr Straw said, however, that the survey showed that too little was being done to alleviate teacher shortages. He said: "A crisis exists. What we need is clear action, not gimmicks. We need much greater openness from Mr MacGregor."



Mr MacGregor: Felt the report justified schemes

Campaign to cut child road deaths

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

A WIDE-RANGING initiative aimed at cutting the alarming rate of deaths and injuries to children in road accidents is to be launched by the Government today.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, and Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, are to unveil a three-pronged campaign in the face of statistics showing that one child in 15 will be killed or injured on the roads before their 16th birthday. The move is part of a continuous Department of Transport effort to improve safety on all forms of transport, and involves several government departments, the private sector and local authorities.

The first proposals involve an effort to improve road safety training for children below school age. A new national pre-school road safety club is expected to be set up, with the involvement of a leading insurance company. Children will be able to receive basic literature enabling them to begin road safety training at the earliest age possible.

Secondly, the Government is expected to outline plans to ensure that road safety is seen as part of children's education. Mr MacGregor is expected to explain how road safety can be integrated into the main subjects of the National Curriculum. Finally, the transport department is to launch one of its most expensive publicity campaigns, involving posters and national advertising aimed at warning parents and motorists of the dangers to children on the roads.

While Britain's general road safety record compares well with other countries, ministers acknowledge the "horrific" statistics relating to child accidents. By far the largest number of children killed or injured are pedestrians.

Figures show most casualties occur among boys at about the age of seven and among girls at around 12. Most accidents are in urban areas.

The statistics also show 25 per cent of casualties involve child pedestrians on their way to or from school. The transport department has run a campaign highlighting the hazard but ministers believe the figures show the need to intensify pre-school and school training.

Last September legislation requiring children in rear car seats to wear safety-belts came into force and is having an effect in reducing casualties, according to the transport department. It estimates that up to 200 deaths or serious injuries will be prevented each year by the measure.

In a related development regulations preventing anyone under 21 supervising learner-drivers on their own will come into force in the summer.

Green world shuts out 2CV

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

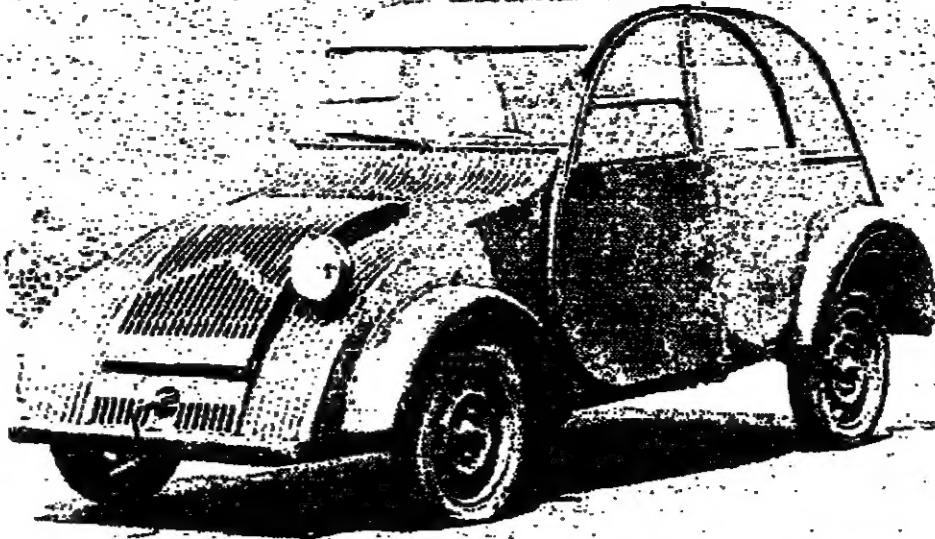
THE Citroen 2CV, the French "ugly duckling" identified as the car of the socially aware suburban classes, is to be killed off because it is not environmentally friendly.

The 2CV became a symbol of a generation of buyers who spurned the high-performance GTi in favour of the twin-cylinder 600cc 2CV to get to their Greenpeace meetings. Their concern for the planet, however, has led to the demise of the 2CV, which, falling foul of impending EC car emission regulations, will cease production within the next few weeks.

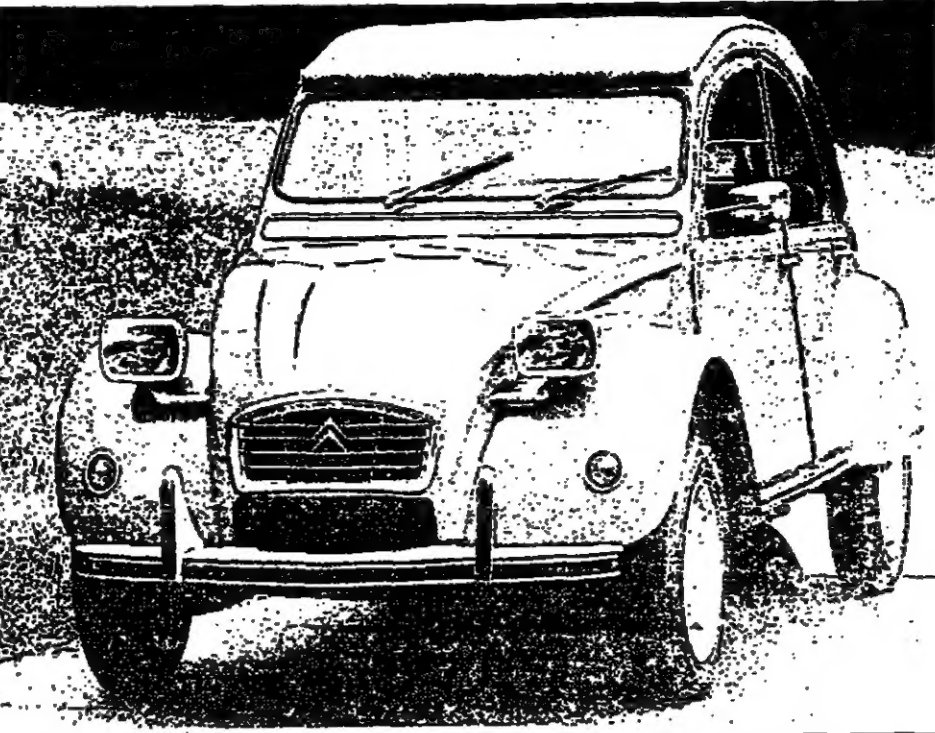
The latest 2CVs will run on unleaded petrol, but would by 1992 have to be fitted with catalytic converters to clean up noxious gases, an investment which the makers decided was not worth while. In Britain, the 1986 sales peak of 7,500 has dropped to 3,000 loyal customers. Assembly lines are expected to shut down in July.

However, enthusiasts will mourn the passing of a remarkable car, of which more than seven million have been sold. As manufacturers designed more and more technology into their cars, making them bigger and faster, the 2CV remained virtually unchanged, with its peculiar "sit up and beg" steering position, flip-up side windows, and tyres which seemed to have been misplaced from a motorcycle.

Citroen was never anxious to play up the "brown rice and sandals" image which the 2CV engendered. The company admitted yesterday, however: "There will be a lot of people who had real affection for the car and will be sad to hear it is going. But times change and products move on."



Plus ça change... The "ugly duckling" 2CV, which changed little over the years



Cars most at risk of theft will be listed

By Our Motoring Correspondent

A LIST of cars most vulnerable to theft and break-ins is to be published by the Government, possibly by the end of the year.

The move, spearheaded by Mr John Patten, a Minister of State at the Home Office, is seen as the most radical attempt yet to force manufacturers to make vehicle security a top priority in designing a car. In Britain car crime costs up to £1 billion a year.

The move could mean that Britain will be the only market in the European Community with a full register of cars carrying crime ratings. Ministers have criticized car makers for their lack of progress in solving the car crime problem, which accounts for one in four of thefts in Britain.

Nearly one million cars were broken into or stolen last year and 180 a day are stolen in London. In addition, six out of 10 missing credit cards and about 70 per cent of missing cheque books disappear during car thefts.

Mr Patten has called in a panel of experts to discover how models fare. The panel will study annual statistics of police forces throughout the country.

Manufacturers said yesterday that they would study the list with interest. Ford, Britain's biggest car company, which last year registered more than 600,000 cars in Britain, said last night: "We

have followed a policy of introducing better security systems on all our cars for some years, from which we believe the customer benefits."

Rover, which has been involved with the Home Office in a project to invent the "thief-proof" car, also claimed that the quality of its door locks were better than ever. The optimism of the manufacturers has not, however, been shared by fleet customers. They account for almost half of the two million new car sales annually.

The British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association, which represents companies running almost 1.2 million company cars, withheld its prestigious annual anti-theft award in March. It said it believed that no manufacturer had done enough to protect its customers from crime.

Mr Fredy Dellis, managing director of Hertz International, the vehicle rental and leasing group which buys 23,000 cars a year in Britain, severely criticized manufacturers recently, claiming that security devices costing just a few pounds to fit on the assembly lines would save millions in foiled thefts.

He called for manufacturers to fit dead locks, which cannot be opened without a key even if a window is broken, and hardened steel keyhole plates. The cost per car to a manufacturer could be less than £10.

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Ministers accused of deceiving EC on acid rain plans

By Sheila Gann, Political Reporter

MINISTERS have deceived the European Commission by altering their "green" plans for reducing Britain's contribution to acid rain without official sanction, the Greenpeace organization has told the Commons energy committee.

Greenpeace, in a comprehensive attack on the Government's new energy policy, warned ministers not to abandon the £2 billion programme agreed with the EC for fitting filters to Britain's massive coal-fired power stations to reduce acid rain. The Government has proposed reducing pollution by building more gas-fired stations and importing low-sulphur coal from South Africa, Colombia and other places which rely on cheap labour.

A confidential Greenpeace memorandum to the committee, disclosed to *The Times*, argues that the EC only granted Britain lower targets for reducing sulphur emissions because of its reliance on domestic coal stocks. "In its negotiations over the large combustion plants directive,

the UK Government secured lenient targets based on false premises," Greenpeace says.

"If the generators continue to be allowed to meet the directive through the use of low-sulphur coal, in preference to fitting FGD (sulphur filters), then it should become a matter for the European Commission as to whether the UK should now meet the higher targets set for other major European polluters."

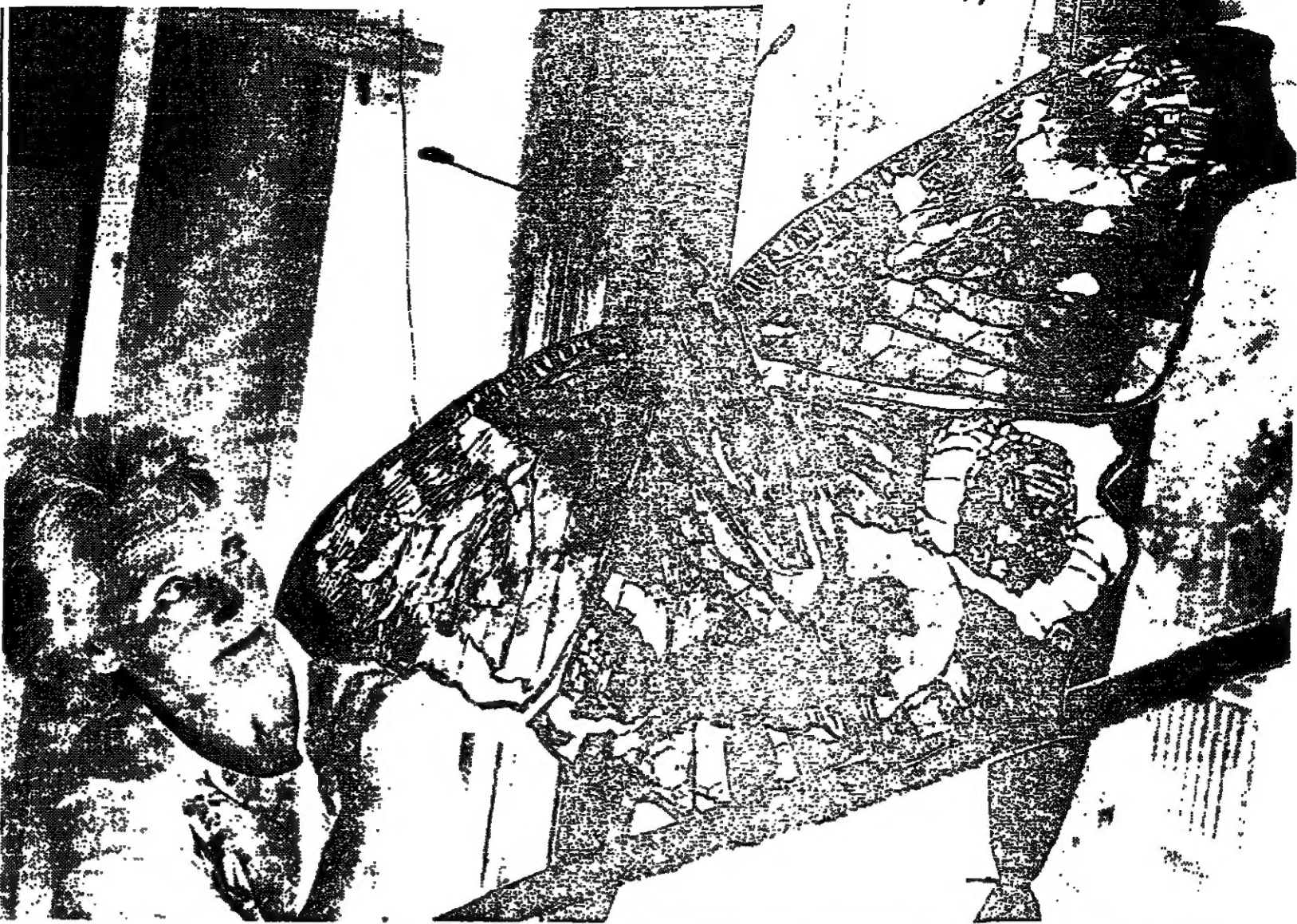
Greenpeace says Britain emits more of the sulphur emissions which cause acid rain than any other western European country. West Germany has been carrying out a massive programme of fitting filters as its forests fall victim to acid rain.

The Tory-dominated energy committee ordered an inquiry after National Power and PowerGen, the post-privatization managers of the electricity supply industry, forced the Government to drop the £2 billion filter programme rather than give them a "green dowry" to cover the cost of reducing power station pollution by

fitting filters. The committee is concerned that the new policy of relying on coal imports will decimate the domestic coal industry, make Britain reliant on foreign coal and gas prices and worsen the balance of trade deficit.

Greenpeace says that using more gas and imported coal instead of fitting filter equipment may bring only short-term savings. That suggested that the target of reducing harmful emissions was "not best served by allowing the generators free reign to choose how they meet the targets of the [EC] directive".

The Greenpeace analysis found that the EC target would be met only by at least trebling imports of low-sulphur coal. It told the committee that increased imports and world demand for low-sulphur coal would bring higher world coal prices. "Clearly there will be a point where the extra cost of low-sulphur coal will mean that it would be cheaper to build desulphurization equipment filters and burn indigenous coal."



Catherine Morrison with one of her stained glass sculptures featured in an exhibition of her work at Tring Zoological Museum, Hertfordshire

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Smoke detectors 'could save 300 lives each year'

By Staff Reporter

MORE than 300 lives lost by fires in the home each year would be saved by smoke alarms costing as little as £4, according to a report by the National Housing and Town Planning charity.

The charity says that in the United States, where legislation has resulted in smoke detectors being fitted in four out of five homes, domestic fire deaths have been almost halved, and it accuses the Government of "dragging its heels" on introducing legislation in this country.

The report says that hundreds of people will die needlessly while the Government awaits the results of its own research rather than readily accepting the life-saving benefits of smoke alarms. The charity, whose members include local authorities, building societies, architects and builders, says safety and security is a "widely neglected" housing issue.

"The Government has encouraged individuals to fit their own smoke alarms, but those most in need are not being targeted," Mr Richard Bate, the charity's assistant director and joint author of the report, said. "Legislation requiring functioning smoke alarms in every home is the only effective way to save

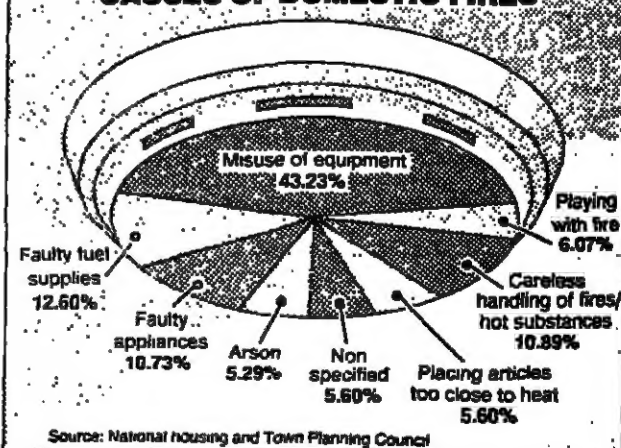
lives." A quarter of domestic fires are caused by factors difficult or impossible to guard against, such as defective electrical fittings.

Eight in 10 of all fire deaths occur in the home and the number injured annually has risen consistently over the past decade to more than 10,000. Eight million smoke alarms are thought to have been installed in almost one in three homes in England and Wales, according to a survey by the charity of 404 local authorities and 95 housing associations.

Home owners are three times more likely to have a smoke alarm than local authority tenants, the report says. "There would be a major increase in smoke alarm usage if a relatively small number of public sector landlords took effective action."

Pensioners and poor families are only half as likely to have smoke alarms as the national average, "a very clear discrepancy between smoke alarm ownership and fire risk", the report says. The Government has fitted 10,000 detectors free in homes in Tameside, Greater Manchester, but it has said no further measures will be taken before that three-year experiment ends in December next year.

CAUSES OF DOMESTIC FIRES



Source: National Housing and Town Planning Council

Farmer shot dead

Mr Nick Davies, aged 29, was shot dead in the driveway of his farm after he killed a dog which was worrying his sheep on Pantywenith Farm, at Henllan, near Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed. His mother, Mrs Gaynor Davies, and brother, Iwan, aged 14, were shot in their caravan home near by but escaped serious injury. They are recovering in hospital in Carmarthen. A man, who was being questioned at Dyfed-Powys police HQ in Carmarthen yesterday, is expected to appear in court today.

Murder charge

Bernard McMullan, aged 22, of New Barnsley Crescent, Belfast, was charged yesterday in connection with the murder of two Army corporals during an IRA funeral in the city more than two years ago. Two men have already been sentenced to a minimum of 25 years for the murders.

Cliff fall

A man who fell 50ft down a cliff face at Portland, Dorset, while on his way home from a wedding reception, was recovering in hospital yesterday, after being badly cut.

Ferry strike

Irish Sea ferry services operated by the Dublin-based B&I shipping line were disrupted by unofficial strike action yesterday.

Pole-axed

Telegraph poles were felled with an axe at Redlynch and Bruton, Somerset: one destroyed two caravans, the other blocked a road.

Mud trap

Two people were rescued by an RAF helicopter yesterday after becoming trapped in mud at the mouth of the River Axe near Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

Noise watch

Plans for neighbourhood noise watchers, similar to existing crime watch schemes, are likely, the journal of the Institution of Environmental Health Officers says.

Heavy footed

A footpath on Helvellyn in the Lake District is so badly eroded by walkers that the damage can be seen from space. Dr Bill Rollinson of the Lake District special planning board said yesterday.

Sea rescue

Two fishermen were rescued yesterday after their small boat collided with a 400-ton Scottish registered coaster in the Channel off the Eddystone Light near Plymouth, Devon.

Ethnic link in health spending

By Our Staff Reporter

FAMILY "underclass" issues in health care, particularly in the West Indian community, are highlighted in a report by the Health Service Commission.

The report, by the Health Service Commission, an independent body set up to investigate apparent inequalities in health care, says that high rates of high blood pressure, heart disease and other ailments in the West Indian community are linked with social and economic factors.

Statistics from the Department of Health show that in general, black people have higher rates of illness and death than white people, including heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer.

The report, which is part of a series of studies on health inequalities, says that the health care system is not always well-suited to the needs of ethnic minorities.

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Hospital efficiency rises as treatments are priced

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

ELDERLY patients discharged from a Huddersfield hospital are being given extra social services support after doctors discovered that the condition of over half deteriorated in the week after they left hospital.

Consultants at the Royal Infirmary in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, have also cut the length of stay of women being treated for gynaecological disorders, enabling the doctors to see 1,200 more women and free 30 beds for other departments.

The Royal Infirmary is one of six hospitals which, since 1986, have been testing the Government's resource management system. It involves doctors in management and gives them information about the costs and

benefits of the work they do. Doctors have been able to price treatments accurately for the first time by programming desk-top computers with information about patients from the moment they arrive. They know the costs of drugs, materials, diagnostic tests and staff time.

The resource management project has been the subject of controversy because it is now being extended to a further 130 hospitals before being fully evaluated.

Doctors are divided over its value. Some complain that the system is costly and diverts doctors from their main role of treating patients. They also see it as a threat to clinical freedom, arguing that doctors should not be influenced by costs. Those that have worked at the pilot hospitals are more enthusiastic, regarding it as a weapon to

argue for more resources. Huddersfield has the most advanced system in the country, and one of the cheapest, having cost about £1.5 million to set up. There have already been tangible patient benefits. For example, women attending as outpatients for breast cancer screening can get the results of their X-ray, follow-up cytology and counselling on the same morning.

In the past, most women would have had to wait at least seven days before the handwritten information from doctors in different departments was collated. "It cuts down on the administration and unnecessary anxiety for the women who are screened," Mr Richard Sainsbury, general surgeon, said.

Mr Peter Jackson, a consultant gynaecologist, says he has changed treatments for menstrual disorders

by reducing the number of hysterectomies he performs. By carrying out surgery on the lining of the uterus instead, the woman's hospital stay drops from six to two days and costs decrease on average by £260 per patient to £750.

He has reduced the average length of stay for gynaecological operations from five days to three, enabling him to treat many more patients and allowing 30 of his beds to be freed for orthopaedic patients. The number of patients he treated on a 30-bed gynaecological ward rose from 2,000 a year in 1987 to 3,200 last year.

Dr Rachel Angus, a consultant at the hospital's department of medicine for the elderly, has started developing "outcome" measures which show how patients progress after they are discharged from hospital. Patients are rated on their

ability to walk, dress, communicate, bath themselves and manage stairs. These functions are rated when they arrive at hospital, the day of discharge, seven days after they leave and six weeks later.

She found, for example, that people over 75 who have suffered from a fractured femur are generally more dependent when they leave hospital than when they arrive and half of these patients deteriorate further in the next seven days. After six weeks only 53 per cent are judged as better.

As a result, the Royal Infirmary has made arrangements with social services departments for a home-care organizer, funded jointly, to provide extra support for those who have just left hospital.

Detailed costings of NHS treatments will be vital for an internal market to start operating eff-

ectively as part of the health service reforms.

For the first three or four years most hospitals, however, will be hampered by using aggregated data based on specialties rather than individual treatments. But the Government expects all 260 large acute hospitals to start developing resource management by 1992 and to be able to price their treatments accurately by 1995 or 1996.

Miss Sheila Masters, director of finance from the NHS management executive, insists that resource management must be allowed to develop at its own pace, separate from the NHS reforms. In reality, however, it is likely that the reforms will only start having an impact on the health service once all hospitals have this advanced information technology to enable them to take decisions about care.

Computer might cut smear test errors

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

SCIENTISTS have designed an automated computer system for cervical cancer screening which could cut the number of women mistakenly given a clean bill of health.

The system, which is undergoing clinical trials in the United States, reduces fatigue in laboratory technicians which can result in errors, it is claimed. On a busy day, technicians can scrutinize 100 samples containing more than 100,000 cells for the handful that may indicate early onset of cancer.

The demands of the job are such that as many as a third of pre-cancerous conditions are missed, studies indicate.

It has proved difficult to design a computer capable of distinguishing pre-cancerous cells from overlapping healthy ones. Automated systems have also attempted to dispense with the human element. The new system is a compromise between man and machine, *Scientific American* reports.

Called Papnet, its success lies in a computer technology called neural networks - systems which learn from experience and excel in pin pointing subtle patterns. The system identifies suspect cells for a laboratory worker to study.

Papnet is the brainchild of scientists at Neurological Systems, of Suffern, New York. The United States government has so far licensed the use of the system for retesting smears.

● Cancer patients may receive better treatment as a result of insights into how tumours become resistant to drugs (Thomson Prentice writes).

Researchers have found that some drugs may be more helpful if used before radiotherapy rather than afterwards, which is the conventional approach. Dr Bridget Hill and colleagues at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London have discovered evidence that irradiation of tumour cells can "switch on" a cell protein, called P-glycoprotein, which acts as a pump to expel the drugs before they can take effect.

Drug resistance is one of the biggest obstacles to developing cures for cancer. While many patients respond well to initial treatment, the disease often recurs because not all the cancer cells have been destroyed. The finding could help identify patients who are more likely to respond to some drugs than others.

Policy of growth has failed poor, MPs say

By John Lewis

GOVERNMENT claims that low-income groups have prospered as a result of the thriving, free-enterprise policy of Mrs Thatcher are exploded in a devastating Social Services Select Committee report to be published tomorrow.

The entire government case that high growth has helped poorer families by the "trickle down" theory is based on wrong calculations, according to research carried out for the select committee by the Institute of Fiscal Studies. Government statisticians made a serious mistake in calculating housing benefits.

In a unanimous report the select committee points out that the new information is crucial in judging the Government's stewardship. It says bluntly that the Government can no longer claim living standards of the poor rise automatically with growth. The committee is chaired by the Labour MP Mr Frank Field, but has a built-in Conservative majority.

The original data on which ministers have based their position showed that from

1981 to 1985 living standards for the whole population went up by 4.8 per cent while those for the poorest 10 per cent jumped by 8.4 per cent.

The corrected figures demonstrate, however, that living standards for the whole population increased by 5.4 per cent but rose by only 2.6 per cent for the poorest 10 per cent.

The disclosure could hardly have come at a worse time for the Government when it is defending the poll tax against accusations that it is particularly unfair to low-income groups. It will put additional pressure on ministers to do considerably more for the low-paid.

The disclosure also raises new questions about the government view that concentration on growth, freeing the economy and cutting red tape ensures that the poor will be dragged up as well. Arguments that the policy has still to work through the system also begin to look thin after 11 years.

Conservatives on the committee backed the report on the grounds that it was important to have the correct information and that, if the situation was worse than had been thought, the report should be published so that what was wrong could be put right. No one is suggesting that the Government has deliberately mismanaged the figures simply that officials have made a serious error.

The first attempts to measure the effect of policies on the poor dates from when Lord Wilson was Prime Minister and ministers used the annual family expenditure survey to try to discover how low income groups were doing. Labour published a head-counting exercise of those living at or above benefit levels. It showed a growing army of poor.

Mrs Thatcher decided to publish the figures every other year to obtain greater accuracy and then in 1988 replaced them with another measure looking purely at living standards and ignoring benefits.

The Social Services Committee argued that the old figures should continue as a check. When the Government refused to do so, it commissioned the Institute of Fiscal Studies to do the job.

It was then that the error in government calculations was found. It affected earlier assumptions and ministers are being forced to revise tables.

Leading article, page 15



Frank Field: Tory majority on his committee

Ethnic link in health spending

By Our Social Services Correspondent

FAMILY doctors may be "undertreating" ethnic minorities in deprived areas, particularly in inner London, a report claims today.

The report from the King's Fund Institute and the Centre for Health Economics calls for an investigation into the apparent link between low prescribing costs in some areas of high deprivation with large populations of African, West Indian or Asian origin.

Statistics compiled by the Department of Health show that in general factors associated with deprivation, including high unemployment, seem to be positively linked with raised NHS prescribing and dispensing rates. High spending on drugs is found, for example, in such less well-off northern areas as Liverpool and Rochdale.

The report, however, points to a negative association between the proportion of new Commonwealth and Pakistani origin and overall spending on medicine. London family practitioner committee areas such as Camden and Islington and the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham area - which are rated as the second and third most deprived areas in England - are also among the lowest four drug spenders, well below the national average of £39 a head.

Medicines, the NHS and Europe by David Taylor and Alan Maynard (Bailey Distribution Ltd, Dept D/KPF, Warner House, Folkestone, Kent. £5.95 plus 60p p&g)

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Part of the deserted South Mill at Manningham Mills, which, with their built, their Italianate architecture and their ornate, 250ft campanile chimney, dominates Bradford, a testimony to Victorian ambition. The Victoria and Albert Museum wants to open a Northern branch at the site.

Designed for the inventor and entrepreneur Samuel Crompton Lister, they date from 1870, when they were the largest silk mills in the world, employing, at their height, over 7,000 people (Peter Davenport writes). However, Lister and Co's manufacturing on the site is now concentrated in the North Mill, and, in order to conserve the South Mill, with dramatic facades reminiscent of Venice or Florence, the company intends to refurbish and re-develop the 12-acre complex in a £70 million scheme.

The proposed Lister City is intended to retain the magnificent multi-floored buildings and to make them as vital to Bradford's future as they were to its commercial past.

The Victoria and Albert Museum is discussing funding with Bradford City Council, the Department of the Environment and the Office of Arts and Libraries. The "V&A in the North" is almost certain to include an important permanent display of treasures from the museum's South Asian Collections.

Yesterday, Mrs Jacqueline Bond, of the Lister City Project Office in the South Mill was on duty to provide information to visitors to an exhibition on the scheme.

Pedal power seen as the right route

By Tom Giles

PROPOSALS for a 1,000-mile network of bicycle routes in London are to be announced next month giving campaigners hope that increased national support for pedal-power will ease urban congestion and stem a sharp rise in cycling accidents.

After the development of cycle lanes in towns such as Cambridge, York and Milton Keynes, city planners throughout Britain are examining their potential as a clean alternative to car travel.

The Department of Transport has given its conditional backing to London's cycling scheme, to be drawn up by local authorities and pressure groups such as the London Cycling Campaign. Friends of the Earth and Transport 2000. Supporters say that it could encourage 500,000 more Londoners on to bicycles by the end of the decade and raise the proportion of journeys into the capital made by cycle from 4 per cent to 10 per cent of the total.

Miss Kate Toller, of the London Cycling Campaign, said that Britain's expenditure on cycling was well below that of many European cities. Public investment in Copenhagen, for example, had resulted in bicycles accounting for up to 30 per cent of road traffic. She added: "There is clearly a transport crisis with conges-

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From Anatol Lieven, Riga

After setting out the basic

Cambridge, Massachusetts

"Armenia was a test that showed his (Gorbachov's) demagoguery is not in step with his actions. A real *perestroika* movement was crushed in favour of a constitution created by Stalin." (Reuter)

Artistic freedom, page 18

Medals on parade: Soviet Second World War veterans bearing their medals with pride in the Kremlin yesterday. They were being addressed by President Gorbachov at the first formal event of a week's celebrations marking the 45th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe

From Christopher Walker, Vaslui, Romania

As the many incidents of violence have shown, the average Romanian's idea of democracy — especially in rural areas — is not that of a politics seminar in Britain. When I asked one voter whether Mr Ion Ratiu, candidate for the rival National

A reporter who asked cynically about his attendance at

A map of Romania and its neighboring countries: Poland, Czechoslovakia, USSR, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria. The Black Sea is to the east. Major cities in Romania are marked: Iasi, Vaslui, and Bucharest. A scale bar indicates 100 miles.

the introduction of the market economy in certain areas, notably tourism, external and internal trade, and construction. There will also have to be swift decentralization," he said. "But we shall not be permitting the type of 'savage liberalism' you have in Britain. We shall be seeking a model with more emphasis on social protection, like Sweden or France."

**From Ann McElvoy
East Berlin**

East Berlin was the capital of socialist bureaucracy and is no doubt still winning votes of gratitude from the system-servers who migrated here to pursue careers in the Orwellian ministries and mysterious

From Mary Dejevsky Moscow

Other potential members are adherents of the inter-regional group of parliamentary deputies, founded by Mr Boris Yeltsin. This group has had several inconclusive debates about turning itself into a party.

As the leading force in the umbrella group, the Bloc for a Democratic Russia, the group's candidates swept the board of many local councils in the March elections, taking control of Moscow, Leningrad and several other cities. If Communist members of the bloc were to leave and join forces with the incipient party, the Russian Democrats would probably offer the most convincing challenge to the Communist Party.

Mr Travkin, a former head of one of Moscow's largest construction trusts, is making a determined effort to win the votes of Soviet workers. Over the May Day public holiday he addressed the first all-union congress of workers' movements and organizations in the Urals city of Kemerovo. He warned delegates of the opposition they might face from the official trade unions, saying that the official media would present them as extremists.

According to a hostile account of his speech published in the *Rabochaya Tribuna*, a daily paper with a readership of mainly blue-collar and manual workers, Mr Travkin had exhorted delegates to return home and urge their fellow workers to leave the Communist Party for his Russian Democratic Party.

From Our Special Correspondent, Bucharest

The demonstrators want to prevent leading members of

About 200 students and workers have pitched tents on lawns around University Square, and barricades have been thrown up. The university buildings, where anti-Ceausescu slogans were once daubed, are now plastered with anti-Ilicescu slogans.

The demonstrators have been demanding that former leading members of the Communist Party be barred from standing for public office for 10 years, a ban that would include Mr Iliescu. They have also been calling for a postponement in the parliamentary elections until September and an end to state control over Romania's single television channel.

By Michael Knipe, Diplomatic Correspondent

A taste of Europe: Mr Quayle enjoying a pastry in Rome's Via Veneto before flying to London

Mr Quayle and other members of the delegation attended a private dinner hosted by Mrs Thatcher at Chequers last night after their arrival from Italy and will have further talks with the Prime Minister at Downing Street today. The Vice-President will have separate talks with Mr Douglas

He called on the Nato allies to consider new tasks for the alliance in a changing Europe. "As Nato adopts new missions, and Europe faces new challenges, the 'European pillar' of the alliance is likely to

In London today Mr Quirle is scheduled to host a breakfast meeting with a cross-section of political and business leaders, attend a lunch given by Mr Henry Catto, the American Ambassador, and attend a parliamentary reception hosted by Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, before flying to Paris for the final leg of the tour.

Arms talks
offer to end
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Arms talks offer to allay Soviet fear on Germany

From Ian Murray, Bonn

EARLY negotiations on the strength of a united Germany's armed forces are being offered to the Soviet Union as part of a Nato-inspired package designed to calm the Kremlin's fears about security. The negotiations, which would also involve levels of British and other Nato forces in Europe, are expected to be added to the arms reduction talks in Vienna.

They answer the plea for help from Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, at last weekend's meeting here to discuss the reunification of Germany. Emotions would boil over in his country, he said, unless it was confident that its security was not endangered.

As one of the victorious Second World War allies, the Soviet Union retains a veto over German unity, but it has made clear it will not use this provided it is sure its security is not endangered.

Mr Shevardnadze had little or no choice when he accepted the inevitability of a united Germany as a member of Nato. The democratic decision to merge the divided nation could not be denied, nor could its will to be a member of the alliance.

West Germany has no intention of leaving Nato, and when East Germany accedes to its Basic Law the united country will be bound by all its existing international treaties and obligations, including Nato membership. Faced with this situation, Mr Shevardnadze exchanged his veto for assurances of security and pledges of economic support.

In return he has already been told that the Soviet Union will be able to retain its residual rights and responsibilities over Germany as one of the four allies, for as long as it takes to negotiate the security guarantees and agree-

ments. This means that the Soviet Union will continue to be able to keep troops on East German territory while Nato cannot.

This in no way means that Germany would not be part of Nato, although it does mean that Nato's future, along with Germany's part in it, is on the negotiating table. These talks could take two or three years, leading to the eventual withdrawal of Soviet troops from East German territory.

Britain, the United States and France would also keep their rights over Germany for the transitional period, but these would have only nominal importance. West German territory would remain under Nato protection.

A united Germany will thus not gain total sovereignty until the Soviet Union is satisfied with all the security arrangements. One consequence could well be that a decision to move the capital of a united Germany to Berlin will have to be deferred until the end of the transitional period.

West Germany is willing to make this sacrifice in the interests of a stable reunification process. "In two or three years the world will have changed, but for the transitional period the Soviets must have an answer for their security and we understand that," a diplomat said.

Although the two Germanies will be one before the extended Vienna talks are complete, President Gorbachev will be able to tell his critical public that the process to control the strength of its Army is under way.

● WASHINGTON: A united Germany should not only join Nato, but should also be a base for nuclear weapons under its control, Herr Manfred Wörner, the organization's Secretary-General, said yesterday. (Reuters)

US general seeks military overhaul

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

GENERAL Colin Powell, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, has called for an exhaustive review of military strength and strategies which he believes could lead to a 25 per cent cut in the Pentagon budget.

In an unusually frank interview in the Washington Post yesterday, he said that every single weapons system, military base and operational doctrine, as well as personnel levels, should be re-evaluated in the light of the end of the Cold War. Whatever had been rendered obsolete by the crumbling Warsaw Pact threat

should be modified or eliminated. Within four to five years US military might could be cut by a quarter.

General Powell mentioned no cash figures, but such a retrenchment would mean a cut of about \$75 billion (£45 billion) in an annual budget of roughly \$300 billion.

He also foresaw the day when the US would cut its troop levels in Europe below 225,000, the level the Administration presently maintains is the minimum. But he said a call by Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, for a reduction to 75,000 was "much too premature". If there was going to be a US military presence in Europe it had to be "a force that looks as if it can fight".

General Powell's interview came just a few days after the House of Representatives and the Senate Budget Committee - seeking a "peace dividend" - approved plans for \$24 billion and \$21 billion cuts respectively in the \$307 billion military spending authority for 1991 requested by the Administration. General Powell indicated that a thorough review could help fend off such cuts, which he clearly believes are too deep at this early stage. "You're going to break this force if you ask us to do it too quickly."

He acknowledged that it was no longer necessary to view the Soviet Union through "these 'evil empire' filters that we used for many years". The US would have up to a year of "political and strategic warning" of a Soviet offensive in Europe.

General Powell envisioned a US force of four main components: a "heavy" force, with tactical nuclear weapons, capable of fighting a medium-to-high-intensity conflict in Europe; a lighter force in the Pacific; a US-based contingency force for rapid deployment; and a "strategic" nuclear force.

Mongolia protests called off

Peking - Nearly a week of sit-ins and hunger strikes across Mongolia ended after the country's largest opposition group, the Mongolian Democratic Association, agreed to join a government advisory body, Mongolian radio said yesterday.

The advisory council would be allowed to draft bills and suggestions to submit to Mongolia's Communist-dominated legislature.

Tass reported yesterday that the opposition and authorities also agreed to set up a full-time parliament, to be elected by a secret ballot held in the current legislature. (AP)

Swapo murder charge dropped

Windhoek - Mr Donald Acherson, the Irishman held in custody since last September after the assassination of Anton Lubowski, the Swapo leader, was freed yesterday and the murder charge against him dropped.

Mr Acherson's passport was returned to him and his lawyer said he would probably fly to West Germany on Thursday before returning to South Africa. (AP)

Rioters ignore appeal by Roh

Seoul - President Roh asked South Koreans yesterday to help prevent the nation from slipping into "chaos", but dissidents and radical students stepped up anti-government protests, with riots in several cities.

In the port of Ulsan workers armed with petrol bombs at the top of a crane in South Korea's biggest shipyard started talks with management after more than a week aloft. (AP, Reuters)



General Powell: Review of US military strength



Envoys of youth: Yulia Prokhorova, left, and Margaret Poteva, both aged 11 and from the Soviet Union, who were among 1,000 youngsters at the fifth annual World Children's Day in the UN headquarters in New York

Foreign ministers grapple with EC political union

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

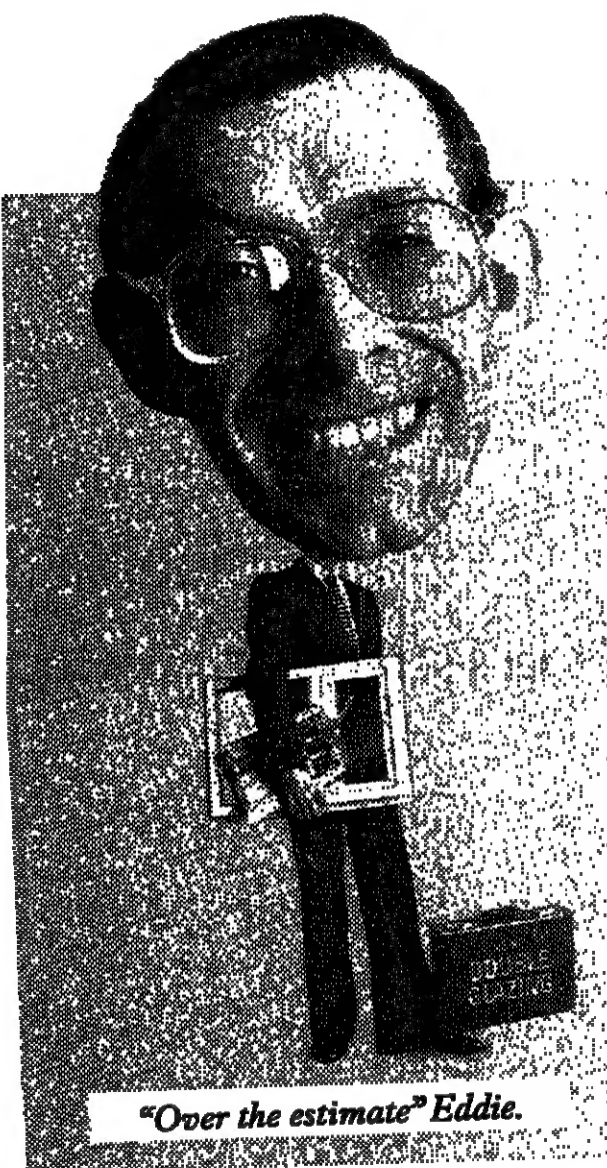
EUROPEAN Community foreign ministers yesterday held their first discussion here on whether subsidiary should be officially written into the text of any treaty change when political union is discussed in December.

The outline of M Giscard d'Estaing's report was presented to the European Parliament's committee on institutional affairs last month. It says the EC should evolve towards a decentralized federation, and proposes that member states should have exclusive competence in a range of fields, including culture, education, sport, public freedoms, public order, civil and penal law. The report also proposes turning the EC Court of Justice into a real Supreme Court, able to decide in cases involving the sharing and distribution of powers.

The European Parliament has already defined what it calls the "essential core responsibilities", which must now be strengthened to form the basis of a European union. They are: economic and monetary union, especially as it impinges on the social and environmental sectors; foreign policy, including security; and European citizenship, including the protection of fundamental rights.

At the heart of their discussions over the next two months will be the issue of "subsidiarity", a concept that will also be debated by the European Parliament next week when it considers European political union. Parliament is soon to publish its own report on "subsidiarity", drafted by M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former French President and leader of the liberal group at Strasbourg. It is likely to form the basis of the consultations between parliamentary leaders and Community foreign ministers on May 17, when MEPs give their views on how Parliament can be involved in the inter-governmental conference on political union at the end of the year.

Subsidiarity is the term used to mean leaving to member states all issues that can best be dealt with at a national level, while allowing Brussels to decide only matters that require Community-wide regulations.



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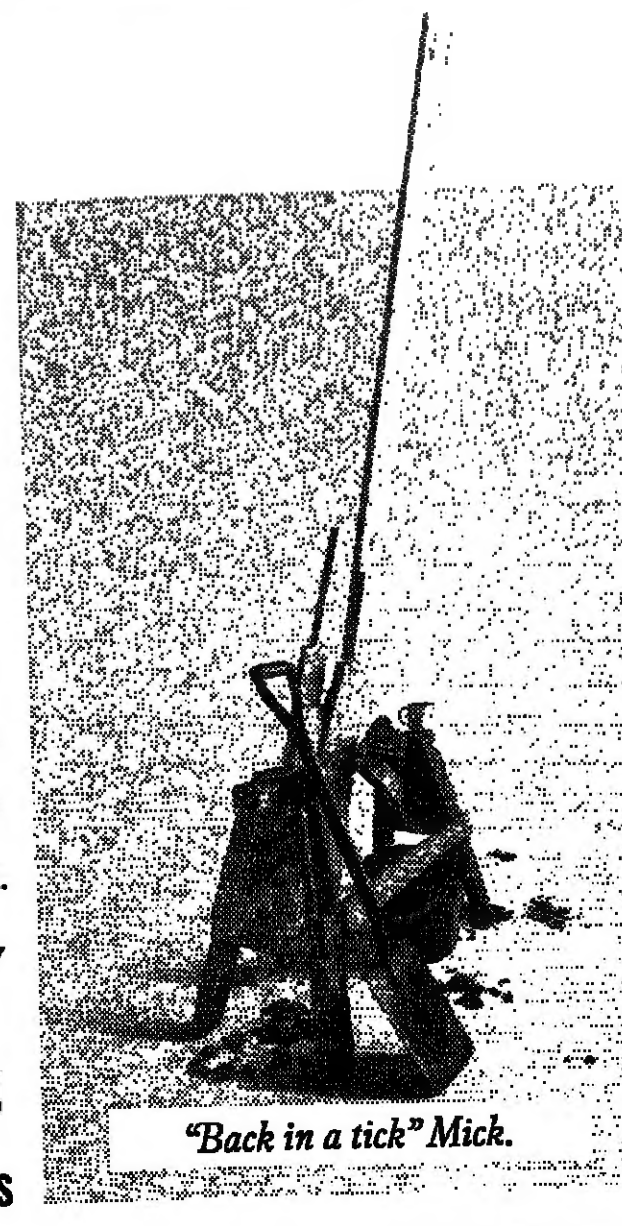
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Iran weighs new peace proposals by Iraqis

By Hahzir Teimourian

IRANIAN leaders were yesterday discussing what position to adopt regarding radical new peace proposals by Iraq. These suggest that the Algiers treaty of 1975 — which delineated the 700-mile course of the two countries' common border — form the basis of a pact to put a formal end to the Gulf War of 1980-1988.

The proposals apparently satisfy Iran's key objective for signing a peace treaty with Baghdad. An informed source in Tehran said the initial reaction of his country's leaders was "positive".

The proposals were contained in a letter from Iraq's President Saddam Hussein to President Rafsanjani, his Iranian counterpart, and were conveyed to Tehran late last week, apparently through Se-

ñor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General.

They differ from all previous Iraqi proposals in holding the Algiers treaty still relevant to the two countries' interests. The treaty was renounced by President Saddam in September, 1980, a few days before his forces invaded Iran.

Tehran's state-controlled media confirmed that the letter was being considered by the foreign policy committee of the Majlis, the Iranian parliament, but it did not disclose details of the proposals. But the source said that the letter suggested the Saudi Arabian holy city of Mecca as the venue of the next round of peace talks.

"As we have no diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, it would be quite difficult for the Iranian Government to agree to the initiative as a whole," he said.

"But it is definitely a step forward and the initial reaction of our leaders is positive."

He agreed that the latest proposals might explain why Iranian spokesmen in recent days have toned down their hostile references to Iraq.

Iraq's proposed venue may be a bargaining point as well as a gesture to Saudi Arabia. It was a Saudi Arabian newspaper, *Asharq al-Awsal*, that first disclosed the Iraqi letter.

But talks could still flounder if Iraq continued to insist that the only outstanding border dispute concerned the Shatt al-Arab waterway, at the head of the Gulf, which appears to be the case from the details disclosed so far.

The Algiers treaty marked the deepest channel of the river at any one point as the course of the two countries border, meaning that both Iran and Iraq had equal navigational rights.

Analysts said President Saddam's latest concession is linked to his desire to host an Arab summit in Baghdad at the end of the month.

Setback for Arab hopes on summit

From Michael Theodorou, Nicosia

A WEEK of tortuous diplomatic efforts to end the long and bitter feud between Syria and Iraq foundered yesterday when Syria announced it would not attend an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad. Instead Syria proposed an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis to discuss a venue and agenda for a summit in the future.

The message was conveyed by the Syrian Foreign Minister, Mr Farouk al-Shara, to the Arab League's Secretary-General, Mr Chadli Klibi, one of many high level envoys shuttling between Middle East capitals hoping to get the summit off the ground.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan have all been involved in efforts to end the rift between President Assad of Syria and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.



Wreckage litters a railway line north of Sydney where a double-decker commuter train and a veteran steam train collided, killing six people

Sabotage feared in rail crash

From Robert Cockburn, Sydney

POLICE are investigating whether sabotage caused Australia's worst rail accident for 13 years. Six people died and more than 100 were injured on Sunday when an electric inter-city train ran into the back of a steam train carrying jazz fans. It had stalled trying to climb a steep gradient outside Sydney.

Police were looking for fingerprints on a hand-operated brake in the steam train's third carriage. Mr Bruce Baird, the New South Wales Transport Minister, said the brakes had been applied, probably by a passenger. The state government banned steam train outings on its railway network until further notice.

The 47-year-old locomotive was returning from a jazz festival when the accident happened. Among the dead is Professor John Ward, the former vice-chancellor of Sydney University, who once taught at Cambridge University, his wife Patricia and their daughter Jennifer.

Trial told of beating by Mrs Mandela

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

MRS Winnie Mandela took turns with members of the "Mandela United Football Club," her squad of bodyguards in Soweto township, in beating up three young men and a teenage boy whose body was later found on open ground, a judge was told here yesterday.

Mr Kenneth Kease, aged 30, one of the alleged victims, told the Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg that he had been terrified by Mrs Mandela, the wife of Mr Nelson Mandela, the Deputy President of the African National Congress. He said she slapped, punched and whipped the four of them and pulled them by the hair. Mr Kease said that as she punched him she ordered him not to block her blows.

Mr Kease was giving evidence at the trial of Mr Jerry Richardson, aged 41, who was the Mandela United "coach". Mr Richardson has pleaded

not guilty to the murder of "Stompie" Moeketsi Seipei, aged 14, a black activist, and to further charges of attempted murder, kidnapping and assault.

It is alleged that "Stompie" and the other three were abducted from a Methodist Church house in Soweto in December, 1988, and taken to Mrs Mandela's home by Mr Richardson and members of the football team.

"Stompie" was accused of being a police informer who had "sold out" four ANC members, and the others were accused of having a sexual relationship with a Methodist minister.

An investigation by the church cleared the minister of the allegations while early last year the "Mandela United Football Club" was disbanded after Soweto leaders called on the community to distance itself from Mrs Mandela.

Sihanouk bows out of politics

Peking — Prince Norodom Sihanouk said yesterday that he will take a long leave of absence as leader of the Cambodian resistance and will no longer be involved in the country's politics.

He will devote himself to rehabilitating his people. He asked the Phnom Penh Government to allow him to travel in zones it controls, but said he would not attend planned talks with Mr Hun Sen, the Prime Minister. (AFP)

Between them, the security forces and at least 50 militant organizations have removed just about every semblance of normal life. In Srinagar, as in other towns, a shoot-on-sight curfew falls at 6 pm every day and remains in force for the next 15 hours — unless there is trouble, in which case it is extended. A general strike called by Moslem separatists yesterday brought life to a standstill.

India may have contained the secessionist challenge, but it has certainly not removed it. It is patently obvious that almost every Muslim supports an independent, reunited Kashmir. Contrary to Pakistani propaganda, nobody wants to join Pakistan, whose political exploitation of the crisis is deeply resented. Even "Azad" Kashmir, seems to be moving in favour of a breakaway from Pakistan. After 400 years of being ruled by outsiders, nationalism has taken a firm hold on both sides of the line of control.

Many people in the valley observe small personal acts of protest against India. They wear watches on the right wrist, for example, and set them half an hour back, to Pakistani time. This little badge of rebellion infuriates security forces, who demand

to check people's watches at roadblocks. Shopkeepers in the grubby alleyways of bazaars like Budshah Chowk have erected signs in Urdu, instead of the usual English, painted on a background of green, the colour of militancy.

The police and military seem to be everywhere. There is a sandbag bunker on every corner in central Srinagar. Foot patrols move constantly through the streets. At night, after curfew falls, military convoys rumble through the deserted city.

A curfew was imposed for 15 consecutive days and nights from April 6 to 21. It was a traumatic experience, recalled with great bitterness. Food almost ran out, and towards the end only rice and cereals were left in most households; pregnant women were known to have died for want of medical attention; there was no electricity; and every day the security forces fanned out into a new district, searching houses and taking away unknown numbers of young men.

Atrocities undoubtedly took place. The Central Police Reserve Force, a non-Kashmiri paramilitary body manned by Hindus and Sikhs, is despised and feared. Yet security officials in Delhi admit that they captured few militant leaders. The circumstances under which people are held are not known. The International Committee of the Red Cross

Local human rights activists, however, insist that the Government encouraged the exodus to create the impression internationally that Hindus were under siege from Muslim fundamentalists. In smart Srinagar suburbs like Chanpora, dozens of big Hindu homes stand empty. The keys have been left with Muslim neighbours and the houses are obviously being well looked after.

According to a prominent lawyer in Srinagar, who is involved in human rights work, 2,000 people are held under emergency regulations, although it is impossible to substantiate the figure. Last week, a special Srinagar court that tries alleged subversives was closed — he believes to prevent local Muslim lawyers from defending suspects. "They will never get a fair trial in Jammu," he added.

Indian security crackdown contains unrest in Kashmir

Christopher Thomas, the first Western correspondent to visit Kashmir for three months, finds a population increasingly divided along sectarian lines

INDIA has gained the upper hand in the beleaguered Kashmir Valley after an aggressive two-month security operation by thousands of troops, police and paramilitary forces.

The valley is now a fortress. Factories, schools, universities, banks and post offices are mostly closed. The police and paramilitary presence in Srinagar, the summer capital, is overwhelming.

Between them, the security forces and at least 50 militant organizations have removed just about every semblance of normal life. In Srinagar, as in other towns, a shoot-on-sight curfew falls at 6 pm every day and remains in force for the next 15 hours — unless there is trouble, in which case it is extended. A general strike called by Moslem separatists yesterday brought life to a standstill.

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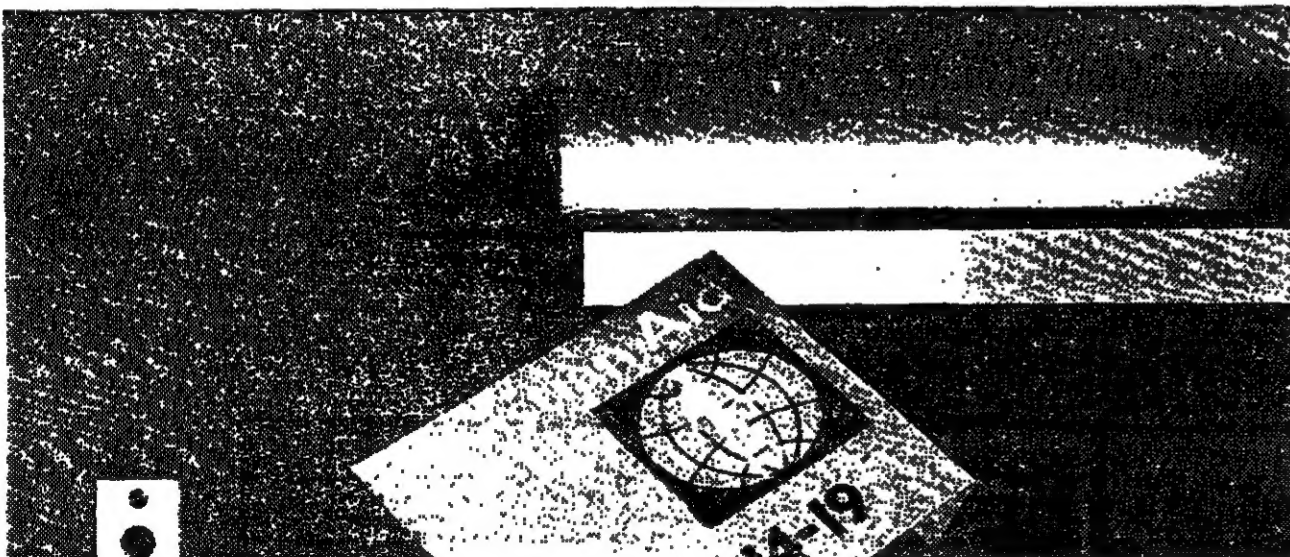
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CHURCHES IN ACTION WITH THE WORLD'S POOR.

Patten under fire over 'green' talks

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

BRITISH environmental pressure groups combined last night to criticize Mr Chris Patten, the Environment Secretary, for his last-minute decision to pull out of the international conference on sustainable development, or "green growth", opening today at Bergen in Norway.

The conference is the first Western attempt at a coherent international response to the warning issued in 1987 by Norway's then Prime Minister, Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, in the report of the UN World Commission on Environment and Development: that human pressures on the Earth are now leading to combined environmental and human disaster.

The meeting is a first step toward possible international agreement on how the whole world, especially the poor countries, can develop without destroying the environment on which all life



Mr Patten: He blamed pressure of work at home

ultimately depends, through the "greening" of economic policy-making.

The 34 Bergen participants, seeking agreement first on a regional level, are the countries of Eastern and Western Europe, with the US and Canada, and the meeting will bring together for the first time the environment min-

isters of Eastern Europe's emergent democracies.

Mr Patten, a well-known enthusiast for the Brundtland report since his time as Minister for Overseas Development, was listed as one of the principal speakers at the conference, and his decision late last week to pull out and send his deputy, Mr David Trippier, has caused surprise and anger among environmental groups and Third World aid organizations.

Last night 32 groups, ranging from the United Nations and Christian Aid to the Town and Country Planning Association and the World Wide Fund for Nature, backed a letter to Mr Patten from Miss Fiona Reynolds of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, saying: "We can only conclude that Britain is not prepared to give the issue top priority and that once again environmental considerations are being subjugated to other considerations." Miss Reynolds said: "This decision is another step in the wrong direction."

The fact that I cannot attend every conference doesn't mean in any way that we are giving the environment a lower priority. We will be extremely well represented by

from the high promise of Chris Patten's early days, and a clear signal that Britain's new green image was a false dawn. By not participating he has revealed the British Government's lack of commitment to the international environmental process."

Mr Patten's withdrawal, believed to be related to the pressure of his responsibilities for the poll tax, may do real damage to his credibility as the standard-bearer of the British Government's environmental concern.

"The Bergen conference comes at a particularly difficult time in departmental terms and, as I explained, to the Norwegian Environment Minister, to my very considerable regret I was unable to fit it in."

"The fact that I cannot attend every conference doesn't mean in any way that we are giving the environment a lower priority. We will be extremely well represented by

**WHAT DOES
SOUTH AFRICA'S
BIGGEST
COMPANY HAVE
TO SAY ON
SOUTH AFRICA'S
BIGGEST
ISSUE?**

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Menem nurtures seeds of an economic revival

ONLY four months after facing what seemed like an irreversible economic collapse, Argentina is at a crossroads on the road to recovery.

Recession is biting hard but, after 40 years of economic decline and mismanagement, Argentines are taking it with surprising fortitude. Hyperinflation is in decline: down from 200 per cent a month last July to 12 per cent in April, and still falling. The austral, which at the beginning of the year hit a record 6,000 against the dollar, fluctuated quietly last month at around 5,000 on the open market. Tougher taxation and expenditure cuts have restored government finances, and this year the country will service its crippling foreign debt.

At the centre of this apparent revival is President Menem, a Peronista no less, who only six months ago was dismissed as a dangerous lightweight. Wearing a light gabardine suit President Menem welcomes me warmly at the door to his office in the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace in Buenos Aires. The side-whiskers are shorter than when he was campaigning, when he said more blood might yet be spilt over the Falkland Islands.

His office is comfortably austere and restful. We sit at the head of the table around which General Galtieri's junta blundered into war. President Menem produces an ornate pipe and fills it with fresh tobacco (Dunhill "London Mixture").

Why did you choose to make your political career in the Peronist party, considering its negative record in

"I can do business with Britain," says President Menem of Argentina, who once threatened to spill more blood over the Falklands. He told *Maxi Gainza* in Buenos Aires that his policies are at last putting his country on the path of economic reform. Next, he wants to meet Mrs Thatcher

government? He pulls unhurriedly at his pipe, then answers in a good-natured way. "Negative, positive: depends which way you look at it." Then he adds in his slow, melodious *riofano* accent: "I'm a nationalist, and from very early on I realized there were strong affinities between my way of feeling and that of Justicialism (the Peronist ideology)."

But surely your policies have nothing in common with traditional Peronism? Peronism is corporatist, interventionist, in thrall to the unions, anti-American and anti-British. President Menem supports free enterprise, puts the brakes on fiscal profligacy, launches a daring privatization programme and "regulates" the unions' right to strike. He is an exceptionally friendly terms with the United States, wants a similar rapprochement with Britain...

No, he hasn't, foreign Justicialism - he avoids saying "Peronism". He reminds me that he joined the movement after Peron's overthrow in 1955, "when the going was tough", and spent most of his political life in the wilderness because of his allegiance to it; was imprisoned, tortured and banished to a remote village in northern Argentina by the military regime. "All I did was mature and adapt principles to a rapidly-changing world."

But for the eight million who voted for you, it seems you turned the traditional Peronist message on its head?

He disagrees. Peronism was long overdue for an ideological overhaul to remain viable in the 1990s. He took the lead, trusting the party would follow him. "A leader must stay at the head of his party," he declares. "Otherwise the party will walk off with his head."

But he says he dislikes talking in terms of party. Indeed, there are far more Menemists today than there ever were Peronist voters.

The old party has rallied round, albeit grudgingly. Trade unions no longer hold the Government to ransom. The military, alienated by former President Alfonsín's less than even-handed dispensation of justice to officers involved in the "dirty war", are back in the fold - barring a few hot-headed ex-colonels.

President Menem deftly outmanoeuvres, isolates or wins over opponents. He has stolen the fire of the only party to constitute a credible alternative to both Radical and Peronist populism, the conservative *Union del Centro Democrático*, by adopting its liberal economic policies, adding a "caring" conscience, and renaming the policies the "Productive Revolution".

Señor Menem is said to have adopted these economic ideas with the single-minded conviction of the convert. "Not conversion," he corrects me. "Evolution rather."

Perhaps the religious overtones of the word "conversion" touch a raw nerve. Born a Muslim of Syrian immigrant parents, his conversion to Catholicism before entering politics prompted malicious speculation over his motives for turning to Christianity. How deep is his political conviction that liberal conservatism is the solution to Argentina's crisis?

Again a calm, quizzical look. "There is nothing new about my policies. Many before me believed in them, but didn't dare carry them out. Not even Peron. They lacked courage - not conviction."

One of the biggest tests of political courage will be

privatization. "State industries are losing \$10.5 million a day; almost \$4 billion a year! This can't go on."

Mrs Thatcher would have said, "There is no such thing as a free lunch". Señor Menem likes the phrase, repeats it slowly and carefully. So, will he send home 200,000 public employees, as he says he must?

The politician in him takes over. First he is trying "redeployment" and early retirement schemes. Then he must wait for Congress to pass the new Employment Bill, which should at long last provide support for those out of work. As if in mitigation, he reminds me that public sector wages only take 3 per cent of GNP, while state spending on its loss-making industries takes 8 per cent of GNP. He will deal with these first.

Is he backsliding? Too soon to tell. Harsh, dogmatic measures rub against his grain. But I do not doubt his resolve, nor the cunning, seat-of-the-pants instinct with which he flies seemingly erratic courses while apparently keeping on target.

Winding up the interview, I ask how he regards the resumption of Anglo-Argentine diplomatic relations. He is satisfied, and hopes relations will soon return to their old warmth. Naturally, he will keep up the struggle for recognition of Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas, but - despite the election rhetoric - only through peaceful means. "There is no doubt in my mind that the Malvinas are Argentine," he says, "and that we'll get them back some day. I myself might not see that day, but my children will - or else my grandchildren. Meantime, I don't see why we can't have good relations with Britain."

Yes, he would like to visit Britain. "I'm told Mrs Thatcher would also like to visit Argentina," he adds. She would be very welcome. "Any message to the British?" He ponders the question. "Tell them," he replies, "that we can do good business together."

US foils cocaine cartel's missile plot

From Susan Elliott, Washington

US INTELLIGENCE officials uncovered the most advanced attempt yet by the Medellín cocaine cartel to obtain Stinger anti-aircraft missiles at the weekend when they arrested several Colombians linked to a leading drug trafficker.

The FBI has traced the failed plot back to Señor Pablo Escobar, one of the most wanted men at the head of the cartel, according to a report in *The New York Times*. The intelligence agency arrested at least three Colombians on Saturday in the cities of Miami and Tampa, long centres of the drug trafficking industry between Latin America and the United States.

Colombia's drug smugglers already have a large arsenal, but US authorities say they have recently foiled several efforts by traffickers to obtain Stinger ground-to-air missiles. ABC television news reported on Sunday night that the traffickers intended to use the weapons to increase their grip on Colombia by attacking the aircraft and helicopters of President Barco of Colombia, and his Cabinet.

The report of the conspiracy to procure the Stinger missiles comes amid signs that Colombian drug smugglers have been intensifying efforts to obtain weapons. A supply of Uz machine guns reportedly found their way three months ago to José Rodríguez Gacha, Gacha, one of Colombia's most notorious leaders of drug gangs, was killed by the Colombian police in an ambush at his ranch early this year. US authorities are struggling to determine how the arms fell into his hands since they were approved by the Israeli Government for transfer to the Caribbean island of Antigua.

A senior government official told *The New York Times* that the Medellín cartel was expecting to pay \$5-\$6 million (£3.1-£3.7 million) for the 24 Stinger missiles, which had not yet left the United States when the FBI broke up the conspiracy. The official said he was unable to confirm the ABC report that the traffickers aimed to kill President Barco, who has stepped up co-operation with the United States to rid the Andean countries of the narcotics trade.

Anti-drug intelligence networks have linked Señor Escobar, thought to employ the Colombians arrested last weekend in Florida, with the murders of leading political candidates over the past year. Two weeks ago, a gunman aboard a Colombian aircraft stepped out of the plane's toilet 10 minutes after take-off from Bogotá and shot dead Señor Carlos Pizarro León-Gómez, a former left-wing guerrilla who joined the presidential race last month.

Señor Escobar and Gacha were named a year ago by the US in a list of the 12 most wanted Colombians connected to drug trafficking. America estimates that 80 per cent of its cocaine is supplied by the Medellín and Cali cartels.



President Barco: A key target for the drug barons

Argentina sends a quiet pragmatist to break ice

From Charles Bremner, Buenos Aires

PRESIDENT Menem of Argentina fits the stereotype of the romantic Latin so well that he sometimes seems to be indulging in self-caricature.

But the man he is sending to London on Friday to break the ice as Argentina's first Ambassador since the defeat at the hands of Britain in 1982 is the very antithesis of the President. Señor Mario Cámpora, a diplomat-politician from President Menem's own Peronist party, is most comfortable behind the scenes in the corridors of power.

It is the place he has spent most of his working life from the Washington and Delhi embassies of his early career to the period of the 1970s, when he worked as right hand to his uncle, Hector Cámpora, who served a stormy six-weeks as head of a radical administration after Juan Perón returned from exile in 1973.

Señor Cámpora, who is aged 59 and of medium stature, is hardly the type who will cut a dash at the Court of St James or make a splash on the talk shows. But that would be the last thing Argentina would want in an envoy whose task is, to say the least, delicate. Sensibilities over the Falklands are still raw on both sides, particularly in Argentina.

Señor Cámpora has been serving as Deputy Foreign Minister under Señor Domingo Cavallo, who has been having talks this week with his opposite number, Mr Douglas Hurd. He says his brief is to help put things back to where they were before the ruling generals embarked on their invasion of the Falklands in April, 1982. "Our relations

have deep roots. If we are careful and help fertilize the tree, it will quite soon be back in good condition," he says, painstakingly choosing his English words.

It is an open secret in Señor Menem's inner circle that the President was happy to pack Señor Cámpora off to London, since the two men failed to hit it off personally.

But Señor Cámpora's credentials in the Falklands matter are impeccable. Unlike many of Argentina's diplomats, he was never obliged to defend the invasion, since he sat out the eight years of the military junta working with his uncle and the Peronists and writing treaties on international affairs both at home and in Mexico and elsewhere. It was only in 1984, in the months after the generals departed, that he rejoined the service when President Alfonsín sent him as Ambassador to the Geneva disarmament conference.

Argentina and Britain make natural friends, Señor Cámpora says. "Our economies have always complemented each other. The United Kingdom has a great maritime vocation and Argentina is at the bottom of the world, almost like an island. Britain is present in so many aspects of Argentine life."

He keeps returning to Argentina's cherished link with the Old World. "We in Argentina are the Europe of Latin America," he says. "The reason is very simple. When the Spanish came to this continent this area was not inhabited by an old civilization as was the case in Mexico or Peru. About 80 or 90 per

cent of the inhabitants came later from Europe."

In London, Señor Cámpora says, he will be able to help re-establish the old commerce. "There is plenty of scope for trade," he says and he rejects, as he must, the fashionable talk about South America being left on the sidelines as the rich countries race to start business in East Europe.

The Ambassador's bookshelves bulge with the political classics. There are *Das Kapital*, the complete Lenin and Khrushchev's memoirs, as well as the thoughts of Augusto Sandino, the pre-war Nicaraguan revolutionary. Such left-wing figures reflect the radical "Justicialist" ideology devised by Perón after he was impressed by Mussolini's Italy in the 1930s. Its main feature is a blend of paternalistic socialism with right-wing nationalism.

Since those days Peronism has swung full circle through the political spectrum to the point where President Menem has embraced a free-market ideology that must have the old President turning in his grave. "You have to remember those were the 1970s and the Vietnam syndrome was prevailing in international relations," Señor Cámpora says. "Nowadays it's completely different. It is quite clear now that the Western alliance, that is the US, Western Europe and Japan, have prevailed with their political systems. They have shown how with political and economic liberties it is possible to build an egalitarian society. That is the way to reach what the socialists were after from the very beginning."

Yen to speculate in art fuels prices

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

FED up with rich but novice Japanese art buyers driving up world prices by purchasing Western pictures purely for speculation, a top Japanese art dealer is closing his auction business until, he says, his countrymen recover their senses.

Mr Takayuki Hayakawa, a dealer for the past 20 years, says he is irritated by Japanese customers who pick paintings only by their price tags. He also feels embarrassed to be playing a role in the art price spiral by banging down his gavel on bids far higher than many pictures are worth.

In a country which imports Western art as keenly as Western countries buy Japanese cars - come to Japan if you want to see the priciest Picasso sold, or the second

most expensive Van Gogh - Mr Hayakawa looks like being as successful as King Canute in holding back the tide.

Sotheby's is so confident that the market is still flourishing in Japan that it recently began holding auctions in Tokyo. The hunt by Japanese investors for a new home for their money now that the stock market is looking jittery has boosted Japan's art-buying boom, says Miss Kazuko Shiomi, head of Sotheby's in Japan.

For some Japanese collectors, buying art is a handy way of hiding cash from the taxman. It has also become fashionable for coffee bars to exhibit a pricey painting as a conversation piece.

Mr Hayakawa, who started Japan's first auction house,

Art Sales Japan, in 1988, says: "The art market in the past year or so has been extraordinary. I have tried to create an art market with appropriate prices, but because of the nature of auctions I can easily imagine having to conduct auctions that are against my principles."

"Some people ask me to find them a painting worth, say, 100 million yen (about £380,000) because they have exactly that much in cash. Others come asking how much profit they could make if they bought a painting now and sold it next year."

"When someone makes a winning bid for a painting at an exorbitant price, I am usually surprised and glad at the same time for a moment, because as an auctioneer I get

a commission. But moments later I realize that I myself had a hand in raising prices."

Japan imported 280 billion yen worth of art last year, mostly French Impressionist. Art dealers reckon the figure will top 400 billion yen this year. Among recent acquisitions were Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger", bought by a Japanese car parts company for 300 million French francs (£32,250,000) - a record for Picasso - and Willem de Kooning's "Interchange", picked up by a Japanese collector for \$20.6 million (£12.6 million), a record sum for work by a living artist.

Mr Hayakawa reckons that it will be a couple of years before the Japanese art market crashes. Then he will pick up his gavel again.

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مكتبات الأحياء

“THE ISSUE IS NO LONGER APARTHEID, BUT WHAT KIND OF SOCIETY WILL REPLACE IT.”

Gavin Relly, Anglo American Corporation. February 1990.

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Why we are funding both university places and bridging programmes to help students overcome the deficiencies of 'apartheid education'.

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The storm weathered

Woodrow Wyatt

The media's political mood has changed dramatically from last week to this. Those so recently convinced that Mrs Thatcher was a no-hoper, with her continued leadership certain to hand Labour victory, are backtracking fast. Even BBC interviewers have begun to ask Labour leaders awkward questions, and Ladbroke, the bookmakers, have reduced the odds against a Tory win to even. (I'm glad I got on before that.)

A forecast in *The Sunday Times* four days before the event estimated Labour's gains in the local elections at 600. They were half that and bore no relation to the conclusions of national opinion polls which had been putting Labour's lead around 23 per cent and higher. If the voting had been the same at a general election, Labour would have got 40 per cent, the Conservatives 32 per cent and the Liberal Democrats 18 per cent. Certainly a general election would win Labour a general election, but we are two years away from that.

Last November the Fabian Society published a well researched paperback, *Can Labour Win?* by Martin Harrop and Andrew Shaw. It examined rationally the 60 seats which Labour must win to prevent Mrs Thatcher having an overall Commons majority for the fourth time. In 23, a majority of more than 7 per cent has to be overturned, including 10 with majorities of over 9 per cent. That would be extraordinarily difficult. For Labour to have an overall majority it must win an additional 40 seats where, in 1987, it trailed by between 10.9 per cent and 16 per cent. It is likely that Labour will win some of the essential 100 target seats but nowhere near all. The higher the vote for the Liberal Democrats — which in the local elections was double their poll ratings — the harder it will be.

As its policies are at least partially flushed out, support for Labour will dwindle. The sober-minded John Smith, its potential chancellor, gave a revealing glimpse in *The Independent on Sunday*: "I've got to keep public spending under some sort of control, and I've also got to increase public spending." He admitted that those earning more than £18,000 a year would pay higher taxes. This figure is in the range of actuality, or aspiration, of large numbers whose votes Labour must attract for the first time. Nor will the millions of new share owners be assuaged by Labour's intention adversely to affect the status of their shares in the newly privatized industries.

Soon Labour will be compelled to disclose the nature of its alternative to the community charge. However blurred, it will not be a vote winner. The verdict of Wandsworth and Westminster is clear, and it was not diminished by the Tories' narrow defeat at

Bradford, which they had held for only 18 months and where Mr Tebbit's "cricket test" dismayed the large Muslim community.

Voters are coming to understand that it is local councils, not the Government, which are responsible for excessive community charges. Many will take heart and start to use their votes accordingly. In Scotland, with the community charge a year old, Labour's local election vote went down by 1 per cent, in contrast to its substantial rise elsewhere.

The principle of the community charge was vindicated last Thursday. If the Government were to abandon it, the unnecessary climbdown would destroy its credibility. There is no resistance to adjustments to iron out anomalies and unreasonable hardships, though a deliberate policy of many Labour councils is not to publicize how easily the generous rebates for 10 million chargepayers can be obtained on application.

There must be protection against wantonly wasteful and inefficient councils determined to use their powers to set their charges in the stratosphere. The Government will probably devise a scheme by which councils may not set charges above an upper limit, though they can set them well below it, as in Wandsworth and Westminster, to retain the power of accountability which is now taking effect.

It is said that no government has ever come back from as far down in the opinion polls to win a subsequent election. This is an era in which past records are repeatedly broken, and my guess is that it will be the same with this one. Volatility among the voters has never been so great. Irritation with the Government over high interest rates and mortgage payments, compounded by the first unpleasant repercussions of the change from the unsustainable rating system to the community charge, prompt short-term, misleading answers to the pollsters on distant voting intentions.

The greater effort pollsters put into making their polls accurate, the more unreliable they become. George Bush found that to his delight the polls had him trailing 17 per cent behind Dukakis shortly before the 1988 presidential election. Already the NOP in *The Mail on Sunday* has cut Labour's lead to 13 per cent, which presumably shows a trend.

The fashionably savage attacks on Mrs Thatcher, widespread in the press and broadcasting, will soon reverse, proving to have been counter-productive. Well before the next election we are due, such is the nature of the changeable media, for an upbeat reappraisal of her achievements and the importance of her staying where she is to advance them. We can forget about a serious challenge to her leadership and assume that all but the most hardened Tory MP doubters will rally to her.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Physicists know a thing or two about the relationship between heat and friction. The thing I know is that there is a relationship. Had I not given up physics at 14, I should probably have found out what the other thing was, but there you are, you cannot be everywhere at once.

Anyhow, if God had wanted us to know everything, he would not have given us the British educational system. Free will is the Almighty's way, and who am I to argue with that? Especially since I gave up divinity the same term. Offered the choices, I shrewdly guessed that my life would be better served by an ability to decline and list the principal exports of the Gold Coast, and I have not been proved wrong.

This does not prevent me from taking as today's text the observation that heat produces friction. I have a course heard that there is a body of opinion which holds the opposite view, but that is no more than you would expect from mere theorists. They ought to get out and about a bit. And what they ought to get out and about to is more lunchtime drinks parties, now that the ozone has, as I understand it, gone through the greenhouse layer, and there's more to come, say the weathermen.

For we have suddenly become a race which drinks at fresco. We have people over at noon, and we usher them towards lawn and flagstone, and we fill their right hands, and they are amble about among shrub and tub, and the sun thrums down upon them, and they chat and chortle happily enough, and all is more or less as it was in the blissful days before it was 82° and still rising. And then the friction enters the soul.

Do not get ahead of me: I am not about to address that homicidal irritability which comes to lesser up. These are civilized folk of whom I speak — should the sun-kissed talk turn to, say, Heseltine or Latvia or the Booker Prize, they do not take swings at one another, they do not fumble beneath the sweat-soaked shirts for Colt and life-preserver, they do not roll amid the petunias, their hands locked

around one another's throats. All that happens when the hot weather strikes is that they say things outside which they would never dream of saying inside. The only part, indeed, which the heat plays is to put them where they can do the saying. In the old, cold days of yore, you had people over for summer drinks, and they stared out at the drizzle for a bit, and then they got on with the slugging and the small talk. What they never, ever, did was criticize their surroundings. They did not say: "Did you realize your carpet has got moth?" Or: "I know a bit about furniture, and that chiffonier is unquestionably fake." Or: "It's time you had that rising damp seen to." Or: "I've sat on a few uncomfortable sofas in my time, but this one takes the bloody biscuit!"

So why should it be that the simple act of shepherding them out into the sunshine should have the effect of stripping from them all pretence of civility? Why, as you are topping up his glass, should a guest nod downward towards his feet and observe: "Yes, well, you realize of course that the only way to get rid of all this couch-grass is to dig the whole thing up and start again?" the man on his right chuckle and say: "Never mind couch-grass, as far as I am aware couch-grass doesn't fall on you, have you taken a look at that chimney of his, I give it six months, tops?" and the man on his left chip in with: "Yes, I noticed the chimney when I was looking at his gutting, you ought to have that guttering seen to, half the brackets have rusted off?"

Why do their wives then join you so that one can point out that if you don't do something about the leaf-curl on your eucalyptia it'll be dead by tea-time? Or another shriek: "First things first, have you seen the thrice on his gladdies, you'd think he'd never heard of Malathion!" while the third inquires icily whether you have something to bang her heel back on with, and her husband smirks and says: "I warned you about that path of his, didn't I?"

Forgive me, I only observe this, I cannot explain it. To me, psychology is an even more closed book than physics.

Patrick Nairne balances the public's right to know and official need for a degree of secrecy

Yes Minister, please tell us more

As a former Whitehall permanent secretary, I have been teased about my occasional role as an adviser to the Freedom of Information Campaign. Has Sir Humphrey Appleby changed his spots?

Any change I may have undergone was put to the test when I took part in an edition of the television programme *Hypothetical*, about government leaks (BBC2, tonight). The programme is based on a fictional scenario about the crash of an aircraft with a group in the Green movement planned to frustrate a British nuclear test. It exposes the reactions of the participants — some experienced in government, others from the media — to subsequent hypothetical disclosures which embarrass ministers and Whitehall officials. In the hypothetical role of Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, I quickly found myself back inside the leopard-skin of Sir Humphrey.

The scenario offered only limited ammunition for the freedom of information campaign. Any Freedom of Information Bill would have important exemptions

on matters affecting national security, such as the organization of a British nuclear test, would certainly be exempted. But the situations presented by the scenario realistically revealed the likely attitudes and responses of Whitehall in such a situation. These need to be understood by all seeking more open government.

Ministers and civil servants are always under attack for their disposition to cover up not only what needs to be kept secret, but what could be politically damaging. Whitehall's culture of secrecy is bred in the bone of British parliamentary democracy. Adversarial politics promote economy with the truth. But my own experience of more than 30 years in government is that every day ministers are compelled — whether they like it or not — to provide a vast range of information in response to MPs, the media and the public. An active Opposition and the vigour of the media see to that; and their pressures are supported by information techniques unimaginable in the past.

Governments will do everything possible to publicize their

own achievements and what is going well, but the waves of probing and critical questions break ceaselessly on the Whitehall shore. There is ample evidence of that today.

Many MPs have declared their support for a Freedom of Information Bill, but pressure from Parliament is not strong. It is much stronger from the special-interest groups outside Westminster. They are justifiably concerned about the extent to which governments can withhold information about important developments or activities within the public sector — for example, about environmental change, civil nuclear power or medical research. Governments are unwilling to take the public into their confidence. A Freedom of Information Act would help their critics, although they would have to specify precisely what information they wanted — and be ready to pay for it.

The critics should recognize other factors too. Scientific research may initially be incomplete and subject to major revision. Other departments, and sometimes other governments, have to

be consulted. The more serious the implications of new information, the more cautious ministers are likely to be, because care and time are required to assess its impact on current policies and on financial resources. It is essential that governments be able to choose the timing of their disclosures to Parliament and the world.

But sometimes they have no choice. A disaster like Chernobyl or an international crisis such as a political hijacking may compel a public statement before all the facts are known. The information available may have to be made public immediately if lives are at risk without it. But the constant flow of green and white papers, and of facts and figures from government departments, contains a mass of politically sensitive information, beneficial or damaging, which governments will always wish to use for tactical advantage. The presentation or timing of one government announcement may be affected by plans for another, and ministers are bound to take into account electoral and constituency factors provided there is no overriding

public interest against doing so.

It is an ancient Whitehall maxim that successes should be announced one by one, and all the bad news together. That has a ring of political reality. The love-hate relationship between government and media will always be with us. There is no immediate prospect of a Freedom of Information Bill, but there has been some progress. Section 2 of the old Official Secrets Act has been removed; fuller access to local government business, to environment and safety information and to personal files and records is available. But there is still a long way to go before the Whitehall culture is fundamentally changed and the doctrine of "the need to know" is replaced by that of "the right to know".

Political will is required. The Opposition is committed to a Freedom of Information Bill. If there is a change of government ahead, the campaigners can look for swifter progress at last.

Sir Patrick Nairne, Chancellor of Essex University, was Permanent Secretary, DHSS, 1973-81.

When British rectitude put the mark back on its feet

Tim Congdon contrasts Montagu Norman's 1920s achievements with the difficulties today in restoring shattered East European economies

Seventy years ago, in the aftermath of the First World War, Eastern Europe suffered from financial difficulties as severe in many respects as those of today. Hyperinflation was a recent memory or an imminent threat; currencies were mostly unconvertible, hindering trade with the more prosperous and stable countries of Western Europe; heavy foreign indebtedness was common.

Of course the problems in the early 1920s were a legacy of war rather than the result of communist mismanagement. But the present task of financial rehabilitation poses a very similar challenge to the nations of Western Europe. The response so far also has parallels with the earlier period as parties of economic advisers, monetary experts and international civil servants travel from one East European capital to another making proposals to improve financial policy.

The British contribution was notably more prominent in the early 1920s than it is today, with Montagu Norman of the Bank of England recognized as having played the pivotal role in European financial reconstruction. Working with senior civil servants from the Treasury, he was the main architect of a stabilization plan for Austria in late 1922 which stopped inflation, corrected the payments deficit and led to a trebling of foreign exchange reserves in a year.

The Chancellor of Austria is said to have remarked, "I would like to erect a statue in gold to the remarkable Mr Norman" (this was partly a reference to Norman's enthusiasm for a return to an international payments mechanism based on gold). The Austrian programme was soon initiated with success in Hungary and later in Greece, Bulgaria and elsewhere. These countries relied partly on loans, arranged by Norman, from the League of Nations.

Out—even before the mayhem

Whether English soccer clubs are allowed back into European competition is likely to be determined by the behaviour of the fans but by an internal power struggle in UEFA, the European football organization. Ironically, Lennart Johansson, the newly elected UEFA president who will be required to deliver the blow, is a strong supporter of the return of English clubs. The English FA, which nominated him for the job, believed that its faith had been rewarded when Johansson held open the European door for Liverpool and other top English sides on his election in Malta two weeks ago, only hours after Jacques Georges, the outgoing president, had roundly criticized English supporters. But even before the Leeds fans' outrages at the weekend, the 60-year-old Swede's conciliatory approach came under attack within UEFA and he was forced to backtrack. Jacques Georges and Freddy Rumo, a Swiss lawyer whom Johansson narrowly beat in the election, have forced him to adopt a tougher approach, which looks certain to keep English clubs in the cold again next year.

Johansson will be at Wembley on Saturday for his first FA Cup Final and will take the opportunity to have talks on the issue with Colin Moynihan, the Sports Minister. But the conclusion already seems foregone — and the suspicion remains that the ugly scenes at Bournemouth will be merely an excuse for a decision that has already been taken.

Even more important was Norman's involvement in Germany. In 1923 the value of Germany's currency collapsed in the notorious Weimar hyperinflation. In mid-June the mark was quoted at 100,000 to the dollar; by the middle of October at 4,000 million to the dollar. In November Dr Hjalmar Schacht was appointed national currency commissioner and created a new currency, the Rentenmark.

Norman, anxious to restore an ordered international financial system, invited Schacht to London in December 1923 and introduced him to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and leading City bankers. On January 1, 1924, Schacht personally presented Norman with his plan for stabilizing the Rentenmark, the main feature being a new German central bank with gold backing. Asked where he intended to raise the funds, Schacht said he wanted to borrow half from the Bank of England. In an extraordinary act of faith, Norman agreed.

Over the next few days Norman secured the approval of his colleagues for an initial advance of £5 million and during the rest of 1924 he was instrumental in assembling finance from private banks for the Dawes loan (named after General Charles Dawes, soon to be US vice-president) which represented an essential international endorsement of the new arrangements. In his memoirs Schacht readily acknowledged Norman's help in bringing German financial chaos to an end. But Norman had not been working alone. Through their advice and financial assistance both the Bank of England and the Treasury had made a vital contribution to restoring a sound German currency.

In later years Montagu Norman became something of a joke among the British intellectual avant-garde. In particular the economic sophisticates who surrounded John Maynard Keynes at



Cambridge regarded him, like the gold standard which he defended so resolutely, as a relic of a bygone era. He suffered the particular misfortune — in the eyes of Bloomsbury aesthetes, writers for the New Left Book Club and similarly influential groups in British society — of believing in such old-fashioned ideals as a sound currency and the value of public service.

The Keynesians laughed loudest about two principles which Norman had seen as basic to the financial recuperation of Eastern Europe. The first was that governments had to balance their budgets. If they could not do it themselves they ought, in his view, to get foreigners (often British Treasury officials) to do it for them. The second was that

central banks should be independent of political control.

According to the Cambridge Keynesians of the 1940s and 1950s, it would be difficult to imagine two more antiquated and redundant ideas. Hadn't Keynes shown in his *General Theory* that governments ought to unbalance their budgets deliberately in order to control the level of total spending in the economy? And wasn't it necessary to nationalize central banks so that they would not obstruct the democratic control of economic policy?

Nationalization of the Bank of England by the Attlee government reflected the complete obsolescence of Norman's ideas and approach. And when he died in 1950 he was full of resentment. He wrote to an American friend: "As I

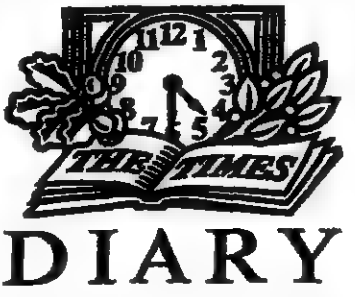
look back it now seems that with all the thought and work and good intentions which we provided, we achieved absolutely nothing. The same may be said of the League Loans. I think we should have done just as much good if we had been able to collect the money and pour it down the drain."

From the standpoint of early 1990 that seems short-sighted. The new situation in Europe has created some wonderful historical and geographical ironies which put Norman's work in an altogether different light. It is not just that officials from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other international bodies are again making grand tours of Berlin, Warsaw, Prague and Budapest with proposals for balanced budgets and independent central banks. It is also, and much closer to home, that the cause of central bank independence has come to be regarded as intellectually advanced. Mrs Thatcher's reported opposition to the idea has given it the final seal of approval among certain sections of the chattering classes as particularly progressive and worthwhile.

Moreover, the advantages of taking monetary policy out of the political arena are argued now with a German example in mind. It is said that the key to explaining West Germany's low inflation rate in the post-war period is that the Bundesbank has been independent of government, while Britain's high inflation has reflected the Bank of England's subservience to political masters; and whereas in the 1920s Britain helped Germany to recover financial stability, it has now become the job of the German central bank to rescue the Bank of England and the Treasury from their failures and inadequacies. In a remarkable reversal of roles, Germany is to give Britain a decent currency.

Montagu Norman never liked publicity, and his ghost may be distraught at the evolution of his ideas into high intellectual fashion. But such are the tricks that historical experience has played on certain political dogmas in the 20th century.

The author is economic adviser to Gerrard & National Holdings.



into a Bermuda triangle of the Caymans, Geneva and London. In any such scheme, the vendor retains a percentage interest in the buying company only in the event of it selling the work on to a third party, the resulting profit being conveniently and quite legitimately made offshore.

The service offered by such Cayman subsidiaries — for a handsome cut amounted to be as high as 20 per cent — would include not telling the vendor the names of the directors of the company, so the vendor can deny all knowledge of "who bought it from me".

While the Tavistocks deny retaining any interest in the Three

Graces, their lawyers' connections with the company that bought the statue have led to speculative rumours that even this famous family may have been tempted by such a tax-efficient — and totally legal — scheme.

Washington State University is running courses in fast food, with a \$50,000-a-year professor lecturing on "Better Burger Mechanics and Pizza Theory". British higher education also has some strange disciplines these days, judging by the appearance on BBC1 of an earnest academic described as "Comics Lecturer, Bristol Polytechnic". If only one of his students could get on University Challenge: "John Smith, reading Comics at Bristol Poly..."

Brooke upstaged

Allegations of plagiarism are dogging the opening of the new musical based on the life of Rupert Brooke, by disc-jockey Mike Read. *Young Apollo* is due to open in Leatherhead next month and may transfer to the West End. Bill Kenwright, the producer, originally approached playwright Catherine Muschamp to write a "workable" book. He had bought the rights to the musical after seeing it tried out in a village school, and, according to Muschamp, felt it was "naïve and sentimental". Muschamp came up with a completely different approach, which Read disliked and Kenwright rejected — apart, says Read, from "a couple of ideas" which he insists are among the accepted facts of Brooke's life. When the musical began casting early this year, Muschamp got hold of a copy of Read's reworked version, which she claims con-

tained "five or six scenes and ideas" directly lifted from her script. Read offered her 25 per cent of his royalties and a mention in the programme — although she has already been paid a fixed sum for her original commission — but she is not satisfied, and the matter is now in the hands of the Society of Authors. "She's the only one who has been paid so far at all," says Read, who is finding it difficult to work out what else Muschamp wants. "Mike Read is perfectly entitled to write his own book, but he shouldn't use mine," retorts Muschamp.

Tantalizing

That consummate politician Michael Heseltine is playing cat and mouse. Few political speeches have ever been so extensively trailed as his expected assault on the poll tax, following last week's local elections, but the timing and setting remain secret, and Heseltine is being uncharacteristically coy about his movements. "It's business as usual this week," he says. "Parliamentary engagements" will occupy him throughout today, Wednesday and Thursday; he is appearing on BBC *Question Time* on Thursday night, and addresses a conference in Liverpool on Friday. That night he will cross the Pennines to address Harrogate Tories. In the meantime, he refuses to be drawn on his alternative to the poll tax. "I have not given any indications about that," he said yesterday. He also denies that he is coming under pressure to end the speculation. "I have not heard a word from the whips. They are as relaxed as I am." If that is true, the whips are not the men they used to be.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

UNTYING THE ALBATROSS

Can Mr Michael Heseltine win the next election for Mrs Thatcher after all? Later this week, he intends to put forward proposals on how the Government might resolve its biggest dilemma since it returned to power in 1979, what to do about the poll tax. Such proposals could be the key not just to his party's fate but to his own hope of succession when Mrs Thatcher eventually steps down.

The Prime Minister has emerged from the local elections with her previously shaky leadership looking more secure, thanks to the remarkable manipulation of government grants to certain "flagship" London councils. As a result, Mr Heseltine's oft-repeated assertion that he would not stand against Mrs Thatcher and that she will lead the Tories into the next election looks an increasingly safe bet. Opinion polls may tell the party that he would be the better leader electorally, especially among floating voters, but he has ruled out a direct contest and Mrs Thatcher has ruled out resignation.

Which leaves Mr Heseltine and the reform of the poll tax, to which even the Cabinet appears committed. The phrase to which government spokesmen have been clinging in recent months is that "the basic principle of the community charge must remain intact". The question of which principle is basic and which can be discarded is left conveniently open.

The principles which Mr Heseltine should firmly proclaim this week are those of local accountability, of each household paying something for local services and of some linkage to ability to pay. These aspects of poll tax were part of its original purpose, but have been diluted under political pressure. By being a flat-rate impost, the new tax has found itself so capped and rebated as to lose its essence. This essence should be recaptured in any reform.

What must be changed is that the tax must be imposed not on individuals but on households, and imposed progressively. Only thus can the curse of ever widening rebates, and thus ever diminishing numbers of payers, be avoided. Last week, Mrs Thatcher was

saying that one in four local voters would not now be paying full community charge, a high percentage that undermines the accountability of the tax.

But on what basis should a charge be levied? Britain must not go down the route of personal or household income assessment, with its difficulties of means testing, monitoring and policing. The only sensible method of making a local tax progressive is to relate it to the prosperity of whole households, and the only sensible way of doing that is to base it on the benefit that households derive from the value of their property. There is nothing wrong in basing a small part of the public revenue on property value — every other Western nation does.

Such a basis would avoid the need for yet another boost to rebates, since for the most part the poor live in less valuable property than the rich. As was the case with the rates, a property-valuation community charge would be simple to register and collect, since the existing rating lists could be used. The biggest test for the Government would be to abandon capping. But no aspect of the community charge has given more ideological distress to its ardent supporters. Capping destroys the whole point of the tax: accountability. Mr Heseltine, who fought at the environment department against Treasury controls on local spending, could even revive his excellent idea of a local referendum for councils planning to go above their standard spending assessment.

The virtue of Mr Heseltine espousing a property-based community charge is twofold. First, he can present it as evolving out of the existing tax towards greater accountability and progressiveness. Second, he could neutralize local taxation as an election issue. Certainly, a reform along these lines would mean climbing down from the pure heights of the community charge. But those heights are already surrounded with political pollution, shrouded in cost and unpopularity. Mr Heseltine would be doing his party, his leader and himself a favour if he could plot a safe path down to earth.

THE POVERTY TRICKLE

The Government has never claimed to rely solely on the much criticized "trickle-down" theory as its answer to poverty. None the less, it has taken comfort from the fact that statistics seemed to show it working, even if the "cardboard cities" of the metropolitan homeless suggest otherwise.

The statistics are wrong, says the House of Commons Select Committee on Social Security, in a unanimous report disclosed in *The Times* today. According to the committee, the poor have not done nearly as well as had been thought — hardly well at all, in fact.

Trickle-down theory holds that a dynamic economy helps the average and better than average person to become richer, and this effect will multiply, eventually lifting the standards of the poor as well. In so far as a growing economy means falling unemployment, this is a statement of the obvious. But the poorest who constitute the bottom 10 per cent tend to be cut off from such benefits of growth, and must rely on an array of social security payments and subsidies. Even so, the Government has often claimed that the increased prosperity of the nation did not pass them by.

The impact on poverty of one such payment, housing benefit, is now shown to have been miscalculated by the official statisticians. In the years 1981-5 the living standards of the poorest 10 per cent had been thought to rise by nearly twice the average rate. In other words the trickle-down effect was particularly beneficial to those on lowest incomes.

The select committee hired the Institute of Fiscal Studies to check the sums, and found a substantial error in the earlier figures. In the same period when the trickle-down theory was thought to have been so successful, the living standards of the lowest 10 per cent rose by only half — not nearly twice — the average rate. That is bound to mean that for some, living

standards fell drastically. The Government has so far been able to retort that any society in which incomes are widely spread must include those below the average who cannot afford what the average can afford. The only way to avoid this would be to distribute wealth and income entirely equally. Thus it is merely a result of the laws of arithmetic, not evidence of social injustice or political callousness, that "the poor are always with us". The inevitability of relative poverty is an effective answer to those campaigning against poverty who are in fact wedded to greater equality for ideological reasons.

At a certain level of income below the average, a relatively declining standard of living translates as hardship, not a lack of the essentials needed to sustain life but a shortage of clothing, food and shelter to an extent which shames the rest of the community into remedial action. What degree of hardship is considered intolerable is the stuff of politics, not a question that can be left to statisticians. Society judges that at some level — especially when manifest poverty is visible on the streets — the hardship calls for correction. Ministers must, at least, be more careful how they use the trickle-down argument in future. It also places additional strain on the Government's main response to poverty, the targeting of benefits.

The changes introduced in 1988 were designed to improve targeting, and the downwards revision of the figures for 1981-85 shows how necessary that improvement was. But as long as the streets of London are lined with dossers, a rising number of young people reporting to homelessness centres and mental patients being decamped unaided into the community, targeting will have to bear an ever rising burden of social responsibility. The Government's claim that the trickle-down effect would also help to take care of it is now seen, to say the least, to be not proven.

A CERTAIN IDEA OF FRANCE

The debate about Europe, and in particular the occasional barbed exchanges between Mrs Thatcher and M Jacques Delors, have portrayed the modern French as rabid federalists, a careless of their heritage, caught up in a doctrinaire pursuit of supranational ideals which must surely erode their national identity. So where stands the legacy of Charles de Gaulle, the centenary of whose birth is celebrated this week?

The fact is that national awareness — and the awareness of national interest — remain as sturdy growths across the Channel as ever they were, and a good thing too. Recent events in Central and Eastern Europe have given the General's views a new relevance. While some British Conservatives assert that the new order there owes much to an enthusiasm for the market economy, the French centre-right tends to see it more as a vindication of the General's vision of a *Europe des patries* stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals, the reassertion of a powerful and enduring sentiment that responds to a basic human need.

Marxists and the radical left have always found this difficult to accept. Nationalism, in their book, was necessarily ephemeral, and would wither away under the assault of reason and material progress. Once the old empires had fallen, the frustrations that stemmed from the denial of self-determination would be removed. This is not an analysis the Prince of Wales is likely to hear much of during his visit to Budapest this week, even in what used to be to the Karl Marx University. Nationalism called the Karl Marx University, and is, ironically, hailed by the West as a liberating force.

De Gaulle had an attractively sardonic way with those who tried to categorize him. One unwary interlocutor ventured a comparison

eral. "I always thought I was Joan of Arc and Bonaparte. How little one knows oneself". His profound knowledge of himself and of his fellow-countrymen, however, is something that his political heirs have not found it easy to match.

He has not been best served by those who invoke him most frequently. In recent years, those who carry the Gaullist banner have seen some of their support seep away to the National Front, most recently over the issue of immigration. More orthodox Gaullists are clearly rattled. Their leader, Jacques Chirac, was reduced at the weekend to declaring that he would never make concessions to "people who had several times tried to assassinate the General". The sentiment is impeccable, but it has its limitations as a political programme.

If the General were to hold one of his celebrated press conferences to review the world scene on the occasion of the centenary, he would no doubt still see the "Anglo-Saxons" in a faintly patronising light, although he might entertain kinder feelings than he once did about the Atlantic Alliance. He would acknowledge that the ending of the division of Germany had brought to an end the equilibrium in Western Europe which he had sought to construct in the 1960s. He would be unlikely on that account to feel any more warmly towards supranational institutions, because he would continue to regard them as incompatible with French identity.

Mainly, however, he would insist on the importance of taking a long view. And he would certainly not resist the temptation to say "I told you so". At a press conference in 1968, he described the blighting of the Prague spring as a "temporary setback". It was, he said, too late for any ideology, including communism, to take away the national feeling.

Religious topics on the air

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, The problem of trying to reconcile the wish to prevent religious indoctrination on television with the wish to continue traditional religious broadcasting (report, April 30) is insoluble, precisely because traditional religious broadcasting in this country has involved religious indoctrination ever since it began more than 60 years ago, however hard the broadcasting authorities and the broadcasters themselves have attempted to disguise it.

The only solution is surely to give religion the same treatment as other controversial subjects — such as politics and sex — along the lines of the existing Broadcasting Bill, and to prevent any religious body having too much of the argument. And, at the same time, what about allowing non-religious and anti-religious bodies a fairer say in the argument?

Yours etc.,
NICOLAS WALTER,
Rationalist Press Association,
88 Islington High Street, NI,
May 1.

From the Director of the Unification Church

Sir, David Mellor would do well to heed the voices of those calling for religious diversity and freedom of speech to be provided for in the new Broadcasting Bill.

His attempt to limit religious broadcasting to mainstream groups like the Church of England, whilst curtailing the opportunities of others such as the Unification Church, runs counter to the tradition of freedom of religious expression. Moreover, it ignores the fact that there is a profound spiritual thirst in the country which is not met by the mainstream churches. If others can meet that need, they should not be hindered. Who is to be the supreme judge?

The argument that fundamental freedoms should be denied to many simply because of the unfortunate excesses of a few can be used to justify all restraints on freedom of expression. As a point of fact, the Unification Church in America has been broadcasting for years without seeking viewers' contributions.

It is also a fact that the accusations levelled against us bear marked similarity to those levelled against the early Christians, early Protestants and Wesleyans.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID M. FRANKLIN, Director,
Unification Church,
43-44 Lancaster Gate, W2.

Common land

From Mr David Green

Sir, Kate Ashbrook's hope (April 25) that the Open Spaces Society may encourage people to grant agricultural uses creating new commons will be counter-productive if the society continues to nourish the public misconception that common always means or should mean available to the public. Around 80 per cent of all common land is only common in the sense that one person owns it, while specific other people have (or had) specific rights to share a part of its produce in common — grazing most generally.

Indeed, many commons have been enclosed and lost, and many battles have been fought over registration under the 1965 Act, simply to make sure that land long and conveniently in common agricultural occupation should not be rendered useless for that purpose by subsequent legislation (for which the society is pressing) which throws common land open to the public without discrimination.

There is a clear distinction between those so-called commons (mostly urban and mostly with the characteristics of land registered as village green under the 1965 Act) which have an established public amenity use; and commons established for and in the course of agriculture which never had that use and never should do. The Open Spaces Society would do well to acknowledge this.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhyd yr Harding, Castle Morris,
Nr Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

Poll tax rebates

From Mr Nick Raynsford

Sir, You report (May 2) the Prime Minister at question time as saying of the poll tax that the rebate scheme for chargepayers is "more generous than ever".

This is not true. The community charge rebate scheme is substantially less generous than the rate rebate scheme which was first introduced by a Labour Government in the 1960s and maintained by subsequent governments of both parties until the early 1980s.

However, from 1983 onwards, Mrs Thatcher's Government made a series of deep cuts in the rate rebate scheme, the effect of which has been carried forward into the community charge rebate scheme. These cuts have dramatically reduced rebate entitlement for millions of people.

Among the many cuts made by the Thatcher Government, three have had a particularly harsh impact:

1. The requirement that everyone, even the poorest, must pay at least 20 per cent of the charge without

Putting estate agents' house in order

From Mr J. C. Sutton

Sir, Richard Green (May 1) asks in what should estate agents be competent. The answer is, primarily, to give the right advice as to what price to ask; how the property should be marketed and described (accurately); to communicate with clients and applicants; and in applicant-property matching and progression of sales. Knowledge of the relevant law is a further requirement.

These basic competences are required, in addition to honesty, if vendors' aspirations are to be realised.

Besides being prone to manipulation by the unscrupulous, unregulated estate agent, the statistics Mr Green suggests agents should publish would be no reliable measure of their effectiveness.

The average selling price as a percentage of asking price is no measure if the client does not accept the agent's advice as to the asking price. Moreover, "gaz-underring" is outside the agent's control.

The average length of time between instruction and a successful sale being agreed will depend again on the realism of the asking price and sellers, some of whom want to sell only at certain prices. And the average would be affected by the composition of the agent's instructions.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and other professional bodies have been working with leading firms on a committee established by the Training Agency to define standards of competence and related performance criteria for residential agency, with the intention of achieving their recognition by the

National Council for Vocational Qualifications. All steps taken in this direction are for the purpose of protecting the interests of members of the public, buyer, and sellers alike.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. SUTTON (Chairman,
Residential Estate Agency
Committee),
The Royal Institution of
Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street,
Parliament Square, SW1,
May 2.

From the Chief Executive of the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers

Sir, Richard Green's letter questions the need for competence in estate agency, preferring instead to put his faith in past performance.

Competence has a direct impact on behaviour in that training and knowledge of relevant law and practice affecting estate agency make it less likely that individuals will err out of ignorance. The importance of introducing minimum standards of competence in estate agency has already been recognised by an independent study team appointed by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry considering professional liability, which concluded that minimum standards of competence should be determined by the implementation of section 22 of the Estate Agents Act 1979.

Yours faithfully,
HAMLIN WHITTY,
Chief Executive,
Incorporated Society of Valuers
and Auctioneers,
3 Cadogan Gate, SW1,
May 2.

Repossession cases

From Mr Geoffrey A. Segal

Sir, As a solicitor who acts for a number of mortgagees, I believe that Lady Wilcock, Chairman of the National Consumer Council, is wholly wrong when she requests a "hearts and minds" reform of county court procedure for repossession cases (report, May 2).

Whilst there are some problems with the present county court procedure probably the biggest source of complaints from clients, solicitors and all others dealing with the courts is delay. Lady Wilcock's proposal can only lead to more delay unless the Government is prepared to put more resources, particularly skilled manpower, into the overburdened county courts, especially those in the Greater London area and other major cities.

In my experience, a defendant who comes to court on a pos-

session hearing will always receive a sympathetic hearing from the registrar, and if there is any prospect of arrears being cleared the defendant will be allowed the time to sort out his financial affairs.

The 90-second hearings Lady Wilcock refers to almost always take place where the defendant adopts a head-in-the-sand approach and doesn't bother to attend court at all, despite approaches by the mortgagees and their solicitors seeking proposals at all stages of proceedings.

The suggestion that the court procedures should be changed to devote more time to that sort of case would merely lead to more justice delays.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY A. SEGAL,
Lehrer Segal (Solicitors),
125/129 High Street,
Edgware, Middlesex,
May 3.

Tunnel finances

From the Chief Executive of Eurotunnel

Sir, Bernard Levin informed us on your editorial feature page of April 30 that he has "built (his) illustrious career almost entirely on a foundation of hyperbole". He asked leave to continue, partly on the subject of the Channel tunnel.

Granted, Mr Levin, it can be amusing. But on February 19 he got his arithmetic wildly wrong, not just exaggerated. And on April 30 he crossed the frontier between hyperbole and falsehood.

It was a lie to say that Eurotunnel represented in February, 1990 "we would not need any more money"; and that Eurotunnel "proudly announces that its coffers are quite sufficiently full for the job in hand"; and that Eurotunnel in April was

asking for two billion pounds more than in February; and that Eurotunnel has ever suggested the Kent rail link is "essential" if the tunnel is "to be finished on time".

Mr Levin should be reminded that Eurotunnel is not seeking, nor has it sought at any time since construction began, a penny from the State for the fixed-link project for which we are responsible; and that the Government is bound by treaty, ratified by Parliament, to honour a concession in which it undertook "to carry out the infrastructure necessary for a satisfactory flow of traffic" to and from the tunnel.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR MORTON,
Chief Executive, Eurotunnel,
The Channel Tunnel Group Ltd.,
11 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1,
May 4.

Ideal reading

From Major O. Crocombe

Sir, In deploring the presence of magazines rather than the New Testament in the waiting room of his local crematorium, Canon Richards (May 1) seems to be under the impression that local crematoria are provided for Christians exclusively.

My understanding is that they are there for all of us, including Anglo-Saxon pagans like me. I would prefer the magazines.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER CROCOMBE,
Castle House,
Enmore, Bridgewater, Somerset,
May 1.

War horses

From Mr Narindar Saroop

Sir, The equestrian statue of Lord Napier of Magdala, at the top end of Queen's Gate in London, sadly does not record some little-known facts about his horse.

Some years ago, as we drove past it, the late Sir Khizar Hyat Tiwana, the last Premier of the undivided Punjab (his family provided the only hereditary royal heralds appointed in the Indian sub-continent and his grandfather proclaimed Queen Victoria Empress of India) told me that the horse was presented to Lord Napier by the same grandfather when an expedition of Indian Army forces sailed from Bombay in 1868 to subdue Emperor Theodore in East Africa.

Lord Napier was mounted on the horse throughout the campaign. Back in India, the animal, by then called Magdala, was returned to the Tiwana family. Sir Khizar recalled his father telling him of one of the family's Sikh gamekeepers riding Magdala, shouting "I am riding the horse on which Lord Napier conquered Africa".

Yours faithfully,
NARINDAR SAROOP,
The Cavalry and Guards Club,
127 Piccadilly, W1.

Bosses at rest

From Sir Bryan Askew

Sir, The ideal solution to the holiday problem for the busy executive ("Breaking point and the boss", May 2) is to take a two, three or four-night break, preferably at short notice, every six to eight weeks.

Not only is this system very relaxing, it is also cost effective as the hotel industry offers excellent bargains.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN ASKEW,
27 Golf Links Avenue,
Tadcaster,
North Yorkshire,
May 4.

British role in East Europe

From Mr Roger Fox

Sir, In spite of the drawbacks and disappointments mentioned by your Warsaw correspondent (report, May 1) I believe that the "Know-How" Fund can still be of considerable assistance in Poland. Last November in Gdansk, I attended a conference for academics and businessmen and women (the latter from both the State and private sectors) on the implications of 1992 for the EC and Poland. It was obvious to me from this conference that Poland's economic future rests with the younger generation of entrepreneurs who are already making a substantial contribution in the private sector. It was an encouraging experience to encounter their energy and thirst for information on a whole range of business activities.

Unfortunately one gets the impression that the "Know-How" Fund is too broad in its approach. It is not geared towards those most needing assistance in the private sector, who are spread throughout Poland, and cannot easily spare the time to come to Britain.

What is needed is training for those who can undertake it in Poland and, more importantly, by UK nationals who are prepared to make the effort to go there.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER FOX,
Thames Polytechnic,
Wellington Street,
Woolwich, SE18,
May 2.

From the Editor of the Bulletin of Medical Ethics

Sir, At an international conference on human rights in medicine, held recently in Krakow, the question "Where are the British?" (report, May 1) was constantly asked. While some questioners referred to the conference itself — 120 French participants, six British — most referred to the absence of effort to improve language teaching.

For 40 years, Eastern Europe has had to learn Russian as its second language. Teachers of other languages were not usually allowed to travel abroad until last year. In science and medicine as well as commerce people are crying out for opportunities to learn English.

Yet, while French, German and Italian radio and television stations are already established in Eastern Europe, those wishing to listen to English have only the BBC World Service, with poor reception and the need for short-wave receivers.

Even some of the few arrangements being made with Eastern Europe may suffer as a result. Six scholarships have been offered to doctors at Charles University in Prague for postgraduate medical study in London. But no language teaching has been included in the offer, and the Czechs are uncertain whether they have enough doctors with adequate English to take up the offer.

Poles, Czechs and Hungarians have told me of their urgent need for improved English teaching at high school and university level. This surely could be arranged quickly through universities and the British Council, with Government support.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. NICHOLSON, Editor,
Bulletin of Medical Ethics,
13-14 Great Sutton Street, EC1,
May 1.

Nelsonian sundial

From Mr Quin Hollick

Sir, Commander Binney's general idea (April 19) on turning Trafalgar Square into a commemorative sundial is perfectly feasible, leaving the monument as it stands.

The appropriate shadow would be cast by the top of Nelson's hat. His hat would form the tip of an otherwise imaginary gnomon which would be at about 30° (Mr Davidson's letter, April 25), the bottom of which would be at a point about 120 feet (depending on the exact height of the top of his hat) south of his column. This would be where the hour-lines would converge.

During the summer months, Nelson's hat would happily cast the correct shadow on to the hour-lines within Trafalgar Square; but for most of the winter months, due to the size of the square and the surrounding buildings, it would not work.

Yours faithfully,
QUIN HOLLICK,
Brook's Close, Swayne's Lane,
Comberton,
Cambridge.

From Mr Peter Mottley

Sir, If a horizontal sundial needs its gnomon to be at an angle (W. Davidson, April 25), perhaps Commander Binney (April 19) should re-think his Nelson's Column idea and re-present it to the town council of Pisa?

Yours faithfully,
PETER MOTTELY,
9 Aston Close,
Pangbourne,
Berkshire.

Royal Pompidou

From Mrs Stanley Alexander

Sir, With all the scaffolding, piping and ladders on the facade of Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, are we aiming at a Pompidou Centre in Paris look-alike for our Royal Academy?

Yours faithfully,
MINDA ALEXANDER,
19 Templemore,
Weybridge, Surrey,
May 2.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Jim McCue on how Ian McEwan's treatment of sexuality in his writing has moved from loveless to loving

Sex, psyche and salvation

Sex has often defined Ian McEwan's characters, but recently it has become vital and positive. In *The Child in Time* (1987) and his new novel *The Innocent*, healthy sexual intimacy is the primary virtue, against which crime, betrayal and pettiness are measured; it is the reward of maturity, the consolation in despair and a mirror of the psyche.

In his early fiction, McEwan wrote about paedophiles, precocious orphans, exhibitionists and solipsists, about loveless sex in all its brutal, savourless variety. Snatched rather than given, sex for these characters was a desperate resort, a dirty mistake, a source of shame and disappointment. The short story "Homemade", for instance, is about incest between uncomprehending children, while "Pornography" is about a twinning of two boys whose fantasies turn nasty. Here sex is the festering secret of the adolescent or the terror of the put-upon child, a joyless and destructive urge.

In "Psychopolis", Terence tells of his humiliation by a girl who forced him to pee in his pants in a restaurant, while in *The Comfort of Strangers*, Robert tells how his sisters humiliated him as a child by feeding him forbidden sweets and then locking him in his father's study to excrete on the valuable rug.

This is the stuff of cold sweats and bad dreams, though such abuses do happen, and McEwan has always been able to describe just how. Imaginatively empathetic, he shows how easily titillation turns to sadomasochism and to murder, and brilliantly evokes the growth of erotic obsession. "The days came and passed. I saw her on this day and not that, and perhaps twice on another day. Imperceptibly seeing her and not seeing her became a factor in my life, and then before I knew it, it passed from factor to structure... I wished to possess her." When exactly do fleeting desires become dangerous, even fatal?

Lovers should build their lives around one another, and instinctively feel possessive; mastery, even bondage, may be an erotic spur. McEwan now exploits the

positive as well as negative aspects of these ambiguous ideas. In early stories, he was worldly-witty: "I met her... on my second day in Los Angeles. That same evening we were lovers, and not so long after that, friends." But in *The Innocent*, he is tenderly and precisely interested in how strangers can reach one another. "He knew from experience that unless he made a formidable effort, a pattern was waiting to impose itself: a polite enquiry would elicit a polite response and another question. Have you lived here long? Do you travel far to your work? Is it your afternoon off?" Escaping protective banalities is a triumph for individuals, and through sex the lovers make a world for themselves which excludes whatever is harmful, automatic or insincere.

When Maria discovers Leonard is a virgin (the innocent abroad), she feels "suddenly absolved from

the pressures and rituals of seduction... she was free, they were both free, to invent their own terms." By coupling, they create a fused identity which is theirs alone together. Similarly, their dancing is a mutual learning and invention: "a pattern emerged, devised consciously by neither of them, the product not so much of what they did but of who they were."

As McEwan's early books show, lust on its own can damage, but between lovers it can be the healing catalyst in this fusing of identities. In *The Comfort of Strangers*, Colin and Mary no longer feel a great passion, but they still find that their bodies can overcome occasional selfishness: "They conducted their arguments in silence, and reconciliations such as this were their moments of greatest intensity, for which they were deeply grateful."

Sexual intimacy affirms our value and values; it offers in-

dependence and immunity from the public realm. McEwan reveals in this in *The Child in Time*, when a married couple reunite and wonder how anything so good can be permitted: "Not governments, or publicity firms or research departments, but biology, existence, matter itself had dreamed this up for its own pleasure and perpetuity, and this was exactly what you were meant to do, it wanted you to like it." This exaltation in "the essentials, love, sex, friendship, the shared life, whatever" may be the purpose of existence, and its power is the very opposite of the squalid thrills of the early stories.

Sex is especially symbolic in adversity. In the introduction to *The Imagination Game*, McEwan suggests that during the Second World War, women's "moral and emotional commitment was vital, for they were the living embodiment of what the men fought to

protect". And in the preface to *A More Obvious* (where the genesis of *The Innocent* is sketched), he describes how in Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* sex is a fragile resistance: "all that Orwell had to pose against the mighty, stultifying regime of Oceania is a man and a woman making love in a wood." This symbolism is at work in *The Child in Time*, where the enemy is a corrupting, right-wing state, and in the new novel, which is set amid the intrigue of Berlin at the start of the Cold War.

In *The Innocent*, Leonard matures when he acknowledges his love and his sexual feelings for Maria. Their love gives his world structure; their bed is rightly at the centre of their lives. But McEwan does not deny the intricacies of sexual identity (Maria has been married before) or the old destructive urges ("He could not believe she would not be aroused by it... She had to give him what was his"). The thwarting of desire is a creative force. "He would never get her back. He had to get her back." Still ambivalent - affirmative or dangerous? - the compulsion is like the contradiction at the end of Beckett's trilogy: "you must go on, I can't go on, I'll go on."

This novel, like McEwan's first, concerns the disposal of a corpse, the dead weight of which ruins the relationship. Just as Macbeth murders sleep, Leonard and Maria dismember their love affair. "What they were about to do now would block their way forever... therefore what they were doing was wrong." The sexual urge, which affirms its own rightness, can also make moral judgements.

In these recent novels, sex is not an inadequate guilty dream, but a reverie of self-discovery, a revelation. McEwan has turned his expertise with the grotesque to new purpose: by exploring the aspects of ourselves we see in deepest intimacy, he has shown what was missing from his early fiction, and given his characters something tremendous to lose.

● Ian McEwan's *The Innocent* is published on Thursday by Jonathan Cape (£12.95)



Ian McEwan: his stories now exploit positive as well as negative aspects of eroticism

Artists offer a lead

Andrew Gibbon Williams welcomes the first fruits of a new artistic independence which has been unilaterally declared in Latvia

Had the Politburo required more solid evidence that Latvia was about to declare independence, it need have looked no further than a conference held in Riga a fortnight ago. The International Art Exhibition Organizers, Art Museum Directors, and Art Dealers conference was set up with ominous haste by the Latvian ministry of culture, with the dual purpose of asserting the country's independent artistic identity and forging autonomous links with the foreign art world. The majority of the delegates were from the newly liberated Eastern European republics, although Scandinavia, France and Germany were also represented. Earlier planning would no doubt have led to a greater Western presence. Pointedly, no Russians were invited and no Russian was spoken.

It was clear from the opening speech, delivered by the Latvian minister of culture, that the small Baltic republic feels its separate artistic heritage has been swamped and debased by nearly half a century of political domination. The main message to the foreign arts administrators was that in future they should deal directly with Riga in matters of cultural exchange, rather than channelling their efforts through the Soviet ministry of culture in Moscow. As Andrew Brown, director of Edinburgh's 369 gallery and the only British delegate, commented: "It was as if the Scottish Arts Council, feeling hijacked and undermined by the Arts Council of Great Britain, had decided to do something about it."

At the Latvian union of artists' annual spring exhibition, held in the exhibition hall of the Latvia Hotel, there was ample evidence that the country's pride in its native artists is justified. A smattering of now discredited socialist realism testified to Stalin's unhappy artistic legacy, and a profusion of uninspired potboilers showed the older members of the artistic establishment to be no more adventurous than their Western counterparts. But several young talents shone out from the dross: among them Janis

Mitrevics, who paints enormous figurative compositions with the angry dynamism of John Hoyland, and Aija Zariņa, who uses the myth of Europa and the Bull to comment upon the Soviet Union's rape of her homeland. It is clear from a short visit to the Latvian National Gallery - an ornate, pseudo-Baroque, turn-of-the-century symbol of Latvian nationalism - that these young artists have a distinguished, expressive Colourist tradition to build upon. Two artists in particular show that Riga was *au fait* with the revolutionary movements of Paris and Berlin. Rosentals (the father of 20th-century Latvian art) trained at St Petersburg Academy, and made his reputation with elegant, Serov-like portraits of the Baltic bourgeoisie, but became a precocious convert to Fauvism. Walters combined Matisse's colour with Munch's symbolism.

Associated with the conference were studio visits designed to introduce dealers to promising artists. German and Norwegian galleries in particular snapped up potentially hot property. These studio visits served to reveal yet more of the wealth of decorative arts and architecture secreted for so long behind the Iron Curtain: the artist Francesca Kirke, for example, works in a superb Art Deco house crammed with precious Latvian arts and crafts furniture. Riga's new Museum of Decorative Arts, in a converted medieval church, opens shortly.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the Marlborough gallery's showing of Francis Bacon, the Moscow art public is being exposed to the giant photo-montages of Gilbert and George, taken to Moscow by the Anthony d'Offay gallery (the pair and their jet-setting entourage turned up at their vernissage at the new Tretyakov gallery). Even in these days of *glasnost*, the unsavoury content of these works strikes a decadent note in a town of city of sparse shelves and distant comments. If the Russians were anything to go by, it would seem that while McDonalds may be welcome, this absurdly expensive, trivial museum art is not.

Dancing with the common herd

MARKET forces apply even to the independent music scene. Two years ago the Inspiral Carpets, like their fellow Mancunians the Stone Roses and Happy Mondays, would hardly have been called a dance band. Then came the rise of Acid House/Rave culture, with well-attended dance parties taking place all over the South East.

Police blockades on the M25 and impending legislation have all but ended these orbital high-jinks. Raves have become institutionalized and, instead of happening in fields near motorways, take place indoors at established rock venues.

The consequence is that participants are now entertained by bands as opposed to DJs: hence last month's Black Box and Happy Mondays events at the London and Wembley arenas. The main contribution of "Rave" culture to contemporary mores has been to give formerly passive fans a passion to dance. Groups such as those named above have had to satisfy this demand and modify their music accordingly.

The relationship between act and audience is, by the standards of the music industry, now extraordinarily democratic. The group comes to play for the fans,

ROCK
Mike Nicholls
Inspiral Carpets
Brixton Academy

rather than the fans simply coming to see and worship their favourite recording stars in the flesh, without questioning their supremacy.

Into the new social phenomenon step the Inspiral Carpets, beneficiaries of this discreet revolution. Their recent hit, "This Is How It Feels", is among the best singles of the year so far, its nagging keyboard figure and late Sixties harmonies offering a challenging combination of reference points. Followers of The Jam will have recognized similarities with their obscure classic, "The Butterfly Collector", although there are other influences which can clearly be discerned.

Keyboard-player Clint Boon sounds as though he is on loan from the Stranglers, while singer Tom Hingley sounds disturbingly like Julian Cope at his most psychedelic when he was with Teardrop Explodes. The busy

light-show, early-psychedelia image and indeed their name, suggest that the Inspiral Carpets have sought their inspiration from that era.

On the credit side, they are a tight live band with no shortage of material, derivative or otherwise. Before signing to the highly credible independent Mute Records, they released several singles on their own Cow label.

Some of those early recordings were included in the set, along with virtually all the songs on their album, *Life*, which entered the charts at number two. There were other tunes too, indicating that the group can be classed as prolific songwriters as well as fluid players.

Helped by their entertaining backdrops (documentary footage, tabloid headlines and so on), the Inspiral have a charisma lacking in many of today's young bands. Their fans show appreciation of this by chorusing "Moo!" between songs: a reference to the band's Cow records logo.

When they start to write material original enough to match the confidence of their sound, Inspiral Carpets will be welcome to keep on playing until the cows come home.

Funny old game, football

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

VIEWERS in Bournemouth, picking up the broken glass after Saturday's soccer rioting, will have had some cause to doubt the claim of a new Yorkshire Television series that football is *The Greatest Game on Earth*. In support of its title, the first of four films, made over two years in nine World Cup countries, came up with the news that soccer is played in more nations than belong to the UN and that this summer's cup will be watched by 15 billion people, three times the world's population.

I am still worrying about that figure. Is everyone going to watch the World Cup three times? Are all 15 billion, including presumably residents of Mars watching via satellite, going to tune in simultaneously or are the viewing figures merely going to be assessed at the moment when 15 billion people tune in, see that it's the bloody football again, and wander off to the video shop leaving their sets playing only for the statisticians?

Such burning questions were not addressed by Yorkshire's new series, for which my hope that Sardinia might be turned into an all-football island.

The island (where the opening summer matches in the World Cup are being played, as a worldwide tribute to British footballism and the need to keep our soccer fans surrounded by as much water as possible) would be entirely inhabited by players and their audiences. In this way, the rest of the world could get on with a goal-free life.

But what *The Greatest Game on Earth* did consider was the fact that in Egypt they now keep armed soldiers on the pitch, alongside an impartial German referee who nips back to the airport before the crowd can kill him. Meanwhile, in Naples, they have named pizzas, steaks and several children after Diego Maradona, who gets £10,000 per goal, £25,000 per interview, and 25 per cent of the proceeds from all souvenirs sold in his name.

He also has so much painkiller inside him that his limbs have to be scraped clear of it every three months. Nor is the game that much easier in the Soviet Union: "Go out there," a coach was seen telling his teenage team "and kick their legs in." The TV Times, advertising the programme, calls football "a glorious obsession": try telling that this morning to the mayor of Bournemouth.

Increased television coverage of world affairs does not always mean that we know much more about the affairs themselves. Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* last night reported a war in Angola, fought by Cuban and South African guest soldiers, few of whom seem even now to have much idea of which side won or for precisely what they were fighting. Doubtless they will soon take up football.

Testament of affection

CONCERTS
Paul Griffiths

Michael Vyner
Memorial Concert
Covent Garden



Paul Crossley: a soloist here and new LS artistic director

ANY concert hoping to be a total tribute to Michael Vyner would have to last not three and a half hours but as many weeks, stocked with the 85 pieces he commissioned for the London Sinfonietta plus the complete works of Stravinsky, Tippett, Webern, Weill and all the other modern masters his festivals presented.

Sunday's concert could only hope to give a small part of Vyner, and inevitably it missed out on his flamboyance and fun. But the quite extraordinary succession of conductors - David Atherton, Bernard Haitink, Oliver Knussen, Simon Rattle, Witold Lutoslawski, Esa-Pekka Salonen - testified to the respect, prestige and affection the Sinfonietta enjoyed during the 17 years of his directorship, while the no less spectacular sequence of new works was some indication of how much he is missed by composers.

I almost wrote that they were the main beneficiaries of his music, but that would be untrue: we all were. The 1970s and 1980s would have been musically so much duller without him; the 1990s will be, unless his spirit can somehow be made to survive.

Of the eight pieces composed for this occasion, the briefest was Berio's *Leaf*, a witty and charming prevarication with a few chords, beautifully turned by Paul Cross-

ley, who later played Takemitsu's *Litany* in two movements, Japanese Berg and quasi-Messiaen, oddly developed from music the composer wrote 40 years ago. Crossley was also the soloist in Henze's *Introsius*, promised as the first movement of a Requiem for instruments, and offering a hefty five minutes after its delicate, high treble opening.

Two other composers chose the violin as solo instrument, remembering Vyner's own history as a violinist, and surely incorporating more personal messages. Oliver Knussen admitted as much, stating that his *Secret Song* somehow encoded a work Vyner always mentioned when playing the game of choosing music for his own funeral: Noma Liddell showed a piece with a regretful smile on its face, though the secret was kept. She was also the soloist touchingly left alone at the end of Nigel Osborne's *Eulogy*.

From Peter Maxwell Davies there was a short, solemn slow movement, *Threnody on a Plain* -

song, from Henryk Gorecki a long *Good Night*, of which we heard only the final third, setting a phrase from Horatio's farewell to Hamlet for soprano (Margaret Field), alto flute, piano and tam-tams in a style so minimal as almost to have vanished.

Much the most impressive memorial came from Harrison Birtwistle in his *Ritual Fragment*. The musicians sat stretched in an arc across the stage, with a bass drum signaller in front, and take turns to play solos at the centre, like mourners laying flowers on a coffin, except that the tone is more electric than funeral, even if the initial festooning of melodies is gradually reduced to ticking ostinatos. A beautiful piece, beautifully performed. Vyner would have been proud of his family.

Pleasure in shifting tonal colours

Noël Goodwin

LPO/Tennstedt
Festival Hall

IN THE 20 years since Kyung-Wha Chung made her diminutive first appearance on this platform, with time taken to marry and have a family, she has given more consistent pleasure in my experience than most solo violinists over a similar span. She did so again with Bruch's G minor Concerto in this programme, lifting it to a poetic realm by her fine of thought, and with those beguiling shifts of tonal colour to which Richard Morrison drew attention in his profile of her on this page last Saturday.

The way she plays is less a matter of instinct now, of course, and more a considered approach, with technique put at the service of a musical sensibility in which crisp articulation and subtlety of shading are basic qualities. The aptness and wonder of her entry in the slow movement, stealing in on the breath of melody, was complemented by her vivacity and character in the finale and matched by the London Philharmonic's support.

The LPO, with Klaus Tennstedt, made a strong finish in its last South Bank concert before it takes up its summer residency at Glyndebourne. Following only three nights after Kurt Masur as a guest conductor, Tennstedt began somewhat uncharacteristically with the revels of *Night on the Bare Mountain*, here owing less to Mussorgsky than to Rimsky-Korsakov's orchestral smooth polish, as if the spirits of darkness were somehow to be made

environmentally friendly.

The drama was kept until last. Brahms's First Symphony, from the ominous introduction on to the fateful finale, was a forceful yet often radiant performance, the essential outlines well prepared in rehearsal, but leaving something to add in spontaneous response as the conductor shaped it with the

left hand's curving palm or stabbing forefinger. It was surprising only to find he made no repeat of the first-movement exposition; the rest had majestic purpose and orchestral splendour, not least in the warmth of string playing, though it was the first oboist to whom Tennstedt offered public congratulations at the end.

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HAROLD INNOCENT
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JOHN WARDLE & ROBERT RIETTY

WITH
HOWARD BELL, ROGER CHAMBERLAIN, PAUL CORRIGAN,
HOWARD CROSSLEY, SARAH-JANE FENTON, ANDY HOCKLEY,
CRISPIN REDMAN, REG STEWART, JAMES WALKER

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FASHION

Making the pieces fit for the High Street

Jigsaw's clothes can be worn by everyone — and still be individual, Dinah Hall reports

As the fashion yuletides hover over the parched wilderness of the High Street, waiting to pick over the bones of the next recession-hit shop, what lessons can be learnt from the cactus factor — those shops which seem to be blooming on barren ground?

Jigsaw is colonizing the capital, having gone thoroughly against the grain by working its way in from the genteel fringes of outer London with shops in Richmond, Kingston, Hampstead and the provinces. It has recently opened its Kings Road branch — the nineteenth member of the family. "Chain" is a word Jigsaw shies away from, for, although the shops may all have the same generic make-up, and at least 90 per cent of the same stock, they are quite individual in character (cool and woody in Richmond, street-wise and zappy in Kensington).

For the moment the sun — and the fashion press — are shining upon Jigsaw, and it's certainly not because they make a journalist's life easy. Photographing the clothes presents no problem — like the customers, you simply sweep up armfuls of loose pleated linen skirts, washed silk shirts and polka-dot dresses, of a style to please everyone and a price to frighten no one. But the interview is a different matter. This is trial by ordeal.

John Robinson, who set up Jigsaw in 1980, will only be interviewed as part of a team of designers and merchandisers. To the journalist facing six pairs of wary eyes across a huge conference table in Jigsaw's spacious Kensington headquarters this can seem like obstruction, but it's a philosophy which probably goes a long way to explaining the success of his business.

Mr Robinson, looking more like the manager of a board in his jeans and a blue jumper than an emperor of fashion, puts the success down to the fact that the company is design-based, "not run by accountants". Given this, it is only right that the designers should be given equal say in interviews.

The round-the-table approach is used when it comes to work as well. The designers don't sit in creative isolation, they say, "but get round the table and pool our ideas". But this doesn't result in consensus dressing, for, "although we work well as a team, everyone has different views". And that, perhaps, is the key to Jigsaw's success: the clothes are accessible to a wide range of people (mothers shopping with their daughters are a common



sight) but retain the individuality which sets them aside from the mainstream or the mediocre.

Paradoxically, perhaps, the designers are particularly proud of the fact that people can wear Jigsaw clothes without them being immediately identifiable as such, because "they are designed to be worn in an individual way". Inspiration, they say, comes from simply keeping their eyes open, from seeing someone on the street or in a magazine. By definition, then, they are not one step ahead. "No," they say, "we're one step aside. But we're not slavishly following anyone else. And, most importantly, we're allowed to have the courage of our convictions."

Mr Robinson, whose background is in manufacturing, seems to manage the company intuitively rather than its particular "business plan".

Asked how he judges where to open shops (Chesham and Chester aren't doing so well, but he is confident that Manchester and Cambridge, where he plans to set up next, would be good spots for Jigsaw), he says he simply goes on hearsay. No elaborate market research, no accountants holding them back...

This month, Jigsaw is introducing a designer label: another round-the-table decision. Helen Storey has designed a line of clothes — recognizably hers in stretch sequins, denim and silk, but able to take advantage of Jigsaw's mass production and prices. Mr Robinson believes getting designer names in to the High Street is the way of the future but has no idea whether it will work.

And, to his credit, instead of taking the usual cautious — not to say patronizing — British business attitude of restricting the company to a pilot launch in central London before committing itself to the rest of the country, the Helen Storey label will be available nationwide at the end of May.

They do not deny, however, that there is a difference between London and the rest of the country. "They still want the quality outside London, but there is definitely a price barrier," says shop manager Helen Dyson.

"They tend to go more for the T-shirting rather than 'investment clothing'. It's to do with different lifestyles. Linen tends to sell very well in London, whereas our rib stuff does well throughout the country, as does silk."

Liz Smith is on holiday



Silver crocheted cardigan, £46; black and white dog-tooth check linen shorts, £38, Jigsaw. Frosted acrylic earrings, £30; bangles from £25 by Campbell & Cowie. Way In, Harrods, SW1; The Outlaw Club, 49 Endell Street, WC2; Chameleon, 13-15 Church Street, Kingston; 5 Burton Street, Bath; 2 Calverly Street, Tunbridge Wells

HOTLINE

Today's fashion set for history

FEW designers, it seems, care about a place in history — they would rather have a couple of spreads in *Vogue* than a showing in the costume department of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

But not so Caroline Charles, who has a small display of her clothes, celebrating 10 years in Beauchamp Place, at the V&A until September.

"We are very anxious to keep our collection up to date: it's essential that we have a running continuity of styles," says Avril Hart, research assistant in the museum's Textiles, Furnishings and Dress department.

"But we can't just go out and buy; we rely on gifts, and not enough designers are coming up with the goods," she says. "They seem to think they're not being appreciated if their clothes are put into store. In fact, we get a huge number of people coming to see the reserve stock by appointment. And, of course, things can get pulled out of store for special exhibition years later."

The "historical" verdict on Caroline



Caroline Charles at the V&A

Charles, who has been a leading fashion name for 27 years, having trained with couturier Michael Sherard in the 1960s, is pretty much in accord with that of the fashion editors, if couched in more academically reserved language.

"She's a classical designer with a very good sense of colour," Ms Hart says. "Her clothes are attractive, wearable and flattering."

Judge for yourself: the display, which includes her sensational head-encrusted jackets, is on view from today.

Uniform design

NEXT week the check-in staff of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express will be sporting a new uniform — a navy blue suit with a long jacket and slightly flared skirt, designed by Alistair Blair. Blair follows other designers who have got into uniform: among them, Jeff Banks and his outfits for the Guides and Brownies, Monica Chong's designs for the BUPA medical staff and Ealing Health Authority, and Arabella Pollen's designs for the Virgin airline.

DH

Above: Sky-blue and white spotted dungarees, £49.95; white silk top, £88, white gym shoes, £12, Jigsaw. Above left: Navy and white polka-dot slip dress, £49, Jigsaw. Drop earrings, £24, Pellini, Liberty, W1; Harrods, SW1; Harvey Nichols, SW1. All clothes available from Jigsaw, 65 Kensington High Street, W8 and branches in London, Richmond, Kingston, Guildford, Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham, Chester, Newcastle, Glasgow and Belfast. Hair and make-up by Teresa Fairminer for Ellisheien. Photographs by ANTHONY CRICKMAY

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Measuring 15in x 15in the design is printed in full colour on 10 holes to the inch canvas. It is worked in either half-cross or tent stitch and enough wool from the Anchor tapestry range is included to complete the tapestry in either. The kit comes complete with canvas, needle and instruction leaflet. All for £28.50 including postage and packing. When ordering use FREEPOST — no stamp needed.

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THE LAW

Act takes judges back to 'school'

Later this month, a massive training programme to prepare about 1,000 judges for handling cases under the Children Act 1989 gets under way. It is the most ambitious training programme ever mounted for the judiciary in response to new law.

The idea is to prepare judges of all ranks — High Court, county court, registrars, stipendiary magistrates — and also justices' clerks for the radically different approach to handling disputes involving children when the Act comes into force in October, 1991.

A series of 17 seminars — or "roadshows" — will be mounted by the Judicial Studies Board, the body charged with judicial training around the country. The series begins in Manchester on May 21. At each of the seminars about 50 judges will be invited to jettison old assumptions about handling disputes involving children and to develop new attitudes on the subject.

The Children Act 1989 is not only a revolution in the law itself, bringing together in one statute all the law on children, whether it concerns removal of a child into local authority care and the parents' right of access, or a private dispute between divorcing couples and the question of responsibility for the child. The Act also, for the first time, creates a special court system for the handling of children's cases with a single set of rules and procedures.

The old system, with its often muddled, bizarre and unfair set of laws, has been swept away along with the anomalies which often meant a different law and procedure depending on which court the case started in.

When the Act is in force, the same law on children's cases will apply

An ambitious series of seminars will help judges develop fresh and consistent views on children and the law, Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent, writes

whether the case is before magistrates or in the High Court. It creates, in effect, an "embryo" Family Court for children's cases: a single jurisdiction where there are specialist, trained judges and cases can move up or down to the appropriate tier of tribunal.

All this has justified an unprecedented programme of training for the judiciary. It breaks new ground in a number of ways. Firstly, judges will be trained or taught *en masse*, irrespective of rank. This is a symbol, according to one of the coordinators, Mr Justice Johnson, of the fact that for the first time the same law will apply, whatever the court.

Secondly, they will be taught by non-judges. The seminars will be conducted by teams of academics, child psychiatrists, court welfare officers and guardians *ad litem* the senior social workers who represent the child's interests.

Thirdly, the programme will result in a specialist corps of "children's judges". These will be 100 or so circuit judges selected from the 225 on the initial training who, in the programme's second phase, will go on three-day residential courses next year. Above all, the pro-

gramme puts judicial training firmly on the agenda.

Until recently, the very concept of training was unacceptable to judges. The extensive work of the Judicial Studies Board in this respect was under the guise of "study seminars", or "refresher courses". But judges themselves now talk of training. "No one is daft enough now to believe you learn it all on the job," Mr Justice Johnson says.

Away from the public eye, however, the board has already made huge strides in judicial training. It was set up in 1963, a judge-created body, to hold discussions on sentencing. Then, in 1985, with the encouragement of Lord Hailsham, the then Lord Chancellor, it was revamped. The result was four committees: criminal, civil and family, magisterial and tribunals, under a Court of Appeal judge as chairman. At present this is Lord Justice Glidewell.

A key part of the board's work has always been criminal. Its role in promoting consistency of approach in the courts is crucial; through disseminating guideline judgments of the Lord Chief Justice; through induction courses for novice judges (assistant recorders), and through refresher courses for experienced judges (all must attend every five years).

With the Children Act, however, and the legal reforms going through Parliament, the board will face a huge expansion in work on the civil side. Its budget has been increased from £1 million to £1.5 million to cope with this (and the work from the Children Act) alone. Under the legal reforms, many disputes will be moved from the High Court down to the county court and many circuit judges, accustomed to criminal cases, will have to tackle large numbers of civil disputes.

The board also has programmes



Future games: the Children Act aims at judicial consistency

under way to train the "trainers" of the 27,000 lay magistrates, as well as the chairmen of the many different tribunals throughout the country (immigration, VAT, pensions appeals). This is a huge task: there are, for example, 4,000 General Commissioners of Income Tax alone.

Lord Justice Glidewell believes

there is no likelihood of a move in this country towards a Continental-style career structure for judges, where they are trained for the job from an early stage.

However, he says: "The whole trend of the board's work is towards making judges more professional than they were and that must be good."

Numbers game adds up to a profession's loss

The Law Society is changing its training system to answer the call for more and better recruits

JUST 10 years ago, the Law Society, the solicitors' governing body, revamped its training system. The changes were meant to last until the end of the century and to revolutionize an archaic and tediously rote-learned regime. Now the society is in the throes of another re-think because the system is providing too few good quality recruits.

Every year, up to 7,000 qualified people are trying to squeeze through the last turnstile into the profession — the year-long Law Society finals course. Just over 4,000 course places are available nationally. All of these aspiring solicitors will have a law degree or the equivalent; many will have spent two years working in a solicitor's firm doing another stage in their training, as articled trainees, formerly known as articled clerks.

Most, therefore, are committed to a career in the law. Avrom Scherr, director of Legal Practice at Warwick University, says: "All law teachers know that they have stu-

dents of excellent standard who cannot get a place on the finals course. Something has to be done about that."

Even if students win the numbers game, the cost of the finals course can be the final disincentive to joining the profession. Local authority discretionary grants are drying up. Fees at the main provider of the course places, the College of Law (training arm of the Law Society), now top £2,000.

Although polytechnics charge considerably less, they offer far fewer places and are also expected to increase their prices now that they are independent, self-financing bodies. The whole system is becoming increasingly discouraging, particularly for a range of mature or financially disadvantaged entrants at a time when demographic change threatens the supply of new lawyers in the 1990s.

However, the demand for them is there. The phenomenal growth of the legal profession during the



1980s — more than 50 per cent — and the development of legal services has created what is known as the "recruitment crisis".

The biggest demand comes from the large commercial firms, who now pay their trainees salaries undreamt of 10 years ago — £18,000 in some cases — way above the Law Society minima. They will often bear the cost of finals fees. The trend seems to have resulted in enormous shortages elsewhere, in high-street legal-aid practices and the grossly

under-staffed Crown Prosecution Service.

Yet it is not just a numbers game. The 1980s have seen a revolution in law teaching and in the expectations of employers. New law is coming thick and fast from Westminster and Brussels.

Lawyers, more than ever before, must be able to find their way around the law rather than relying on what they learnt at college. The 1980 finals course, like its predecessor, has now been condemned by many as being too bogged down with teaching black letter law and not paying enough attention to legal skills.

In response, the Law Society produced radical proposals at the beginning of the year for a six-months finals course which would contain more skills teaching and marginally less law. Articled clerks would also get further formal training in a four-week "professional skills course". The proposals could effectively double the throughput of the finals course machinery.

The Law Society's council will consider a revamped proposal on May 17, at a special meeting. There is great doubt whether the six-

month course proposal has survived the extended period of consultation.

Initial opposition to the changes came from the College of Law itself, arguing that the quality of the law component would inevitably suffer from the cut in teaching time. Misgivings were also expressed about opening the system up to more independent educational bodies, such as polytechnics, and allowing them to assess and examine their own students. Most of all, the changes would place unprecedented pressures on an educational system facing a recruitment crisis of its own.

Proponents of change say that with the continuing growth of mandatory post-qualification training, and requirements preventing new solicitors practicing on their own account, the learning process now stretches much further into the future. This makes the concentrated, once-for-all finals exam redundant, according to Mr Scherr.

Can the legal profession afford to keep employers and would-be recruits waiting on each side of the turnstile?

Sally Hughes

INNS AND OUTS

As the struggle over the right of English lawyers to practise in Paris continues, with righteous indignation coming almost exclusively from this side of the Channel, a delve into the history books puts a different complexion on the debate. The English are up in arms over the French Bar's proposal that all foreign lawyers take a test before practising their home law in France. As suggested in the May issue of *International Financial Law Review*, it is the English lawyers' fault that a test exists at all.

Michel Petite, the European Community Commission official who pushed through the directive on the mutual recognition of diplomas, which contains the controversial provision, is quoted as saying the French moves were: "ironically exactly what we wanted to avoid with the directive — but we were prevented by the British delegation." He claims the delegation was at the forefront on the opposition to straightforward and automatic mutual recognition and insisted on additional tests. Calling the delegation's objections, "a strategic and tactical error of a grandiose nature", M. Petite argues that they should have recognized the mistake "because who exports lawyers? Not the French but the British." Hope of any help from the Commission for British firms in Paris seems to be fading fast.

Lawyers, law students and academics from all over the UK met at the University of Warwick 10 days ago to review the position of British lawyers in relation to the apartheid regime in South Africa after the recent release of Nelson Mandela and the unbanning of the African National Congress. Lawyers Against Apartheid (LAA), a group affiliated to the anti-apartheid movement, has close links with Nadel, the National Association of Democratic Lawyers in South Africa. According to the group's secretary, barrister Mark Guthrie, British lawyers offer specialized support work, research and practical help to Nadel. The group also initiated the campaign that resulted in the Law Society's disinvestment from South Africa.

The meeting was addressed by Chris Watters, a Johannesburg attorney; Paskalis Makhatha, an ANC representative; Lucia Otto, from Satis, the group representing the interests of political prisoners in South Africa; and Brian Hurwitz, a South African lawyer now working in the UK. The speakers reported that after an initial period of euphoria following Mandela's release, concern is mounting among lawyers that levels of political repression have not diminished and that common-law public order offences are still being used to inhibit peaceful protest. They called on British lawyers not to decrease their support for Nadel's work and for the dismantling of apartheid legislation. The group also considered the thorny question of Namibia's international debts and the issue of whether the Namibian government should be held liable for debts incurred by the South African administration.

The recent announcement that Baker & McKenzie's London office was the first law firm to win the Queen's Award for Export Achievement came just as the British Invisible Exports Council released its annual statistics. Lawyers, in particular, have shown a dramatic increase in foreign earnings over the past decade. In 1987, the overseas earnings of solicitors and barristers combined equaled a total £44 million. By 1988, it had risen to £300 million. What with Big Bang and 1992, that may not seem surprising, but in terms of the Queen's Award, why was Baker & McKenzie the first firm to receive the accolade?

Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that the London office is part of an international partnership based in Chicago and as such, the 48 or so offices worldwide have always placed great emphasis on servicing US clients overseas. It might be more interesting to compare Baker & McKenzie's UK earnings with some of the City firms. Then again, why did firms such as Linklaters & Paines and Clifford Chance not qualify for the award, considering the great increase in their earnings? Maybe they are still shy of revealing how much they earn, even to the Queen.

Solicitors are planning to keep these invisible export earnings rising high as 1992 approaches, but in what looks increasingly like a huge marketing exercise, the need to capture the new spirit of international cooperation in a suitable name is acute. The latest announcement that London firm Baileys, Shaw & Gillett has co-founded a European Economic Interest Grouping with firms from West Germany, France, Brussels, Italy and Spain would seem to have veered slightly from the ideal. The group is saddled with the almost unpronounceable title *Legalliance* — which makes it sound rather more like a professional indemnity policy than a European legal grouping.

University College London has achieved a notable first. It has appointed Professor Hiroshi Oda, at present an associate professor of law at the University of Tokyo, as the Sir Ernest Satow Professor of Japanese Law, the first time that the holder of an established post in a Japanese law faculty has moved to a European or North American university. With his extensive knowledge of Soviet and east European law, Professor Oda plans to develop the faculty's East-West law coverage, as well as their Japanese law programme, which will include courses for practitioners and postgraduates.

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THE LAW

The dubious question of proof

Police malpractice of the kind revealed in the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad and the case of the Guildford Four will continue until the police disciplinary system is radically reformed.

We need to change the way complaints are dealt with in two fundamental respects: the standard of proof and the method of internal inquiry. The first change seems to have the support of Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and the second of the Police Federation.

Consider a typical example of how the system works. Mr R, a Jamaican businessman, was picked up in a north London suburb in the early hours of the morning after leaving a party. He was abused, searched and taken to a police station, where he was charged with being drunk and disorderly. Two police sergeants claimed they had found him staggering in the middle of the road, waving his arms about and shouting. In court, they could not agree on what he was doing, and the case was thrown out.

Mr R then sued the police. Three witnesses, who had parted company shortly before he was arrested, insisted that he was completely sober. A county court jury awarded him damages.

He then made a complaint to the police. But the Police Complaints Board (as it then was) said that since the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided not to

LEGAL BRIEF

Last week a report by the Police Complaints Authority concluded that internal police disciplinary hearings against dishonest officers are surrounded by

far too much secrecy, Stephen Grosz argues the case for reform

bring criminal charges against the sergeants, they could not bring disciplinary charges — the so-called "double jeopardy" rule. Mr R took the complaints board to the High Court, which said that the board had been wrong. The board then decided that the officers, one of whom was by now an inspector, should be disciplined.

The complainant gave his evidence at a closed hearing, in which the case was presented and judged by policemen. The tribunal could not be sure that Mr R had not gone back into the party and become drunk in the 10 minutes between being left by his friends and being found by the police. The officers were cleared.

Having won his case in two courts, Mr R could have little faith in a private disciplinary tribunal which allowed the officers to get off, particularly when, a few years later, one of them was convicted of offences connected with the theft of drugs.

Mr R's case happened some years ago, but the system is no better today. An officer can be found guilty of a disciplinary charge only if it is proved to the

criminal standard; ie, "beyond a reasonable doubt". As a result, few charges are brought and only a small proportion is proved. Yet this standard is unnecessarily high and is wrong in principle. Someone charged with a criminal offence risks prison or a fine and will be branded as a criminal. It is right that the power of the

While the system is unchanged, dishonest and violent officers will operate safe in the knowledge that they are unlikely to be punished

state should be wielded against him or her only if a judge or jury is satisfied, so that they are sure that he or she is guilty. But a disciplinary charge is different — even where the offence alleged is also a criminal act. Disciplinary sanctions range from dismissal to caution, and the process is more like the normal disciplinary procedure in every employment relationship, where disciplinary

offences are considered proven if the evidence establishes that they are more likely to have been committed than not.

The public interest, particularly where the police are concerned, requires a different balance between the individual officer and the community. Police officers have considerable powers to arrest and detain suspects, to search them and take their fingerprints and to search their homes. Whether they have too much power or not enough, we are entitled to insist it is exercised only by officers of integrity.

Recently, civil actions against the police have resulted in jury findings — on the balance of probabilities — of serious misconduct by police officers and substantial awards of damages. The public is rightly scandalized to find that officers are often not formally disciplined because of the standard of proof. In 1985, the Court of Appeal doubted that the police were right in adopting the criminal standard in disciplinary proceedings. The Home Secretary's response was to enshrine the practice in the Police

(Discipline) Regulations to require them to do so. That requirement should be changed. By itself, this will not restore confidence in police disciplinary procedures as an effective weapon against police misconduct. Few will trust the system as long as the police investigate and discipline their own people behind closed doors.

No amount of reassurance from the Police Complaints Authority can remedy the perception of institutional bias born of the manner in which complaints are investigated and adjudicated on.

Doubts about the fairness of the system are shared by police officers. To be cleared by an internal inquiry does not give the clean bill of health which would result from vindication after a manifestly impartial investigation and a hearing before an independent tribunal. They, too, would like to see the system changed.

As long as the system remains unchanged, dishonest and violent police officers will continue to operate, safe in the knowledge that they are unlikely to be punished; and lack of confidence will lead more individuals who do not necessarily want damages to turn to the civil courts for a public and independent resolution of their complaints against the police.

© The author is a solicitor with Bindman and Co.



Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner: on complaints, he supports changing the standard of proof

Law Report May 8 1990 Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Clerks must read to justices the prosecution's written request for costs

Regina v Coventry City Justices, Ex parte Director of Public Prosecutions
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Potts
[Judgment May 1]

It was incumbent upon clerks to justices to read out to the justices written applications for costs appended to the forms carrying written pleas of guilty where those were submitted under the procedure provided by section 12 of the Magistrates Courts Act 1980 for dealing with guilty pleas without the attendance at court of either prosecution or defendant.

It was necessary so to do to enable the justices to decide whether to award costs under section 18 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when granting the Director of Public Prosecutions judicial review, by way of declaratory judgment, of

the decision of Coventry Justices whereby they had refused to cause their clerk to read out to them a claim by the prosecution for costs in an uncontested motoring case.

The declaration was that: (a) A claim for costs by the prosecution against the defendant, in a case proceeding according to the provisions of section 12 of the Magistrates Courts Act 1980 might be notified to the defendant in the same document as contained the statement required to be made by the prosecution under section 12(1)(b) thereof, but if so notified did not form any part of the said statement.

(b) If such a claim for costs was so notified, then when the document was before the court on the day fixed for the hearing of the matter, the claim be brought to the court's attention, and it would be the duty of the court to adjudicate thereupon.

Prosecuting authorities

throughout the country made it a practice of appending to the statement of facts, which they were required by section 12 to send to the defendant, a claim for their costs which had been estimated at around £10 for the administration of such cases.

The practice had arisen in magistrates courts by which the clerks to justices declined to read out to the justices the application for costs and there was therefore no costs awarded in the absence of a representative of the prosecuting authority.

Mr John Laws for the applicant the respondents did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS. Giving the judgment of the court, he said the procedure had proved most beneficial. Used in about 200,000 to 250,000 cases a year, costs to the value of £2,500,000 were involved annually.

That figure would multiply many times if appearances had to be made before justices by either prosecutor or defence or both. There was therefore manifestly a need for the procedure to be universally followed and the prosecution's costs dealt with provided defendants were clearly informed that an application had been made for them.

There was no prescribed form for applying for costs so the prosecutor was free to choose an appropriate manner.

In the present case the defendant had pleaded guilty by post to an offence of driving without due care and attention. Below a cogent statement of facts was a dotted line separating that from typed words saying costs of £10 were claimed under section 18 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

The CPS, scenting trouble, were attending the hearing and indeed following the recitation of

the statement of facts relating to the offence the clerk indicated that he did not wish to read, as requested, the claim for costs and advised the justices that they should not cause him to do so.

The reasons for doing so were that the clerk did not consider the application for costs to be properly a part of the statement of facts; it was improper for such an application to be considered by justices before they had decided, on the basis of the statement of facts, whether to accept the plea of guilty; the clerk should not make an application for costs of his own volition and if the prosecution wished to apply for their costs they should amend.

Neither the clerk nor the bench was represented before their Lordships. There was no reason for that. There was no provision for meeting their costs should they be called upon

to meet those of a successful party. That was regrettable and was a situation for which a remedy must be found.

His Lordship did not accept the submission of Mr Laws that the section 12(1) notice formed part of the statement of "facts relating to the charge". The statement of facts referred to in section 12 clearly referred to the facts relating to the offence charged.

They were set out specifically for the purpose of allowing a defendant the proper opportunity to consider what plea to tender. They had no other purpose. The nature of costs was an entirely independent issue and could not relate to the circumstances of the offence.

Mr Laws also submitted that nothing in section 12 of the Magistrates Courts Act or section 18 of the Prosecution of Offences Act required the attendance of the prosecutor for the

justices to be able to consider a claim for costs. The purpose of section 12 was to obviate the need for their attendance.

The effect of the justices' decision was to disapply section 18. They were not being asked to deal with the question of costs before deciding whether to accept a guilty plea.

There was no possible vice in the claim for costs being brought to their attention before they adjudicated on the plea. If the application for costs was not part of the statement of facts, Mr Laws submitted, section 12(5) did not prohibit the clerk drawing it to the justices' attention, otherwise they could not carry out their duty to adjudicate upon it. The clerk was not being asked to make the application of his own volition.

His Lordship considered Mr Laws was entirely right in all those submissions.

The instant application for costs might be said to be inappropriately placed where it was on the form required for the statement of facts but it was made clear that it was not, and was not meant to be a part of the statement of facts relating to the offence.

It might be that a separate form for making an application for costs and other matters such as the need to produce a driving licence which had to be brought to the attention of the court and of the defendant should be created. An alteration should be considered by the CPS in conjunction with justices clerks.

What it was absolutely necessary should happen forthwith was that the practice of not reading out the prosecutor's claim for costs had to cease. It was grossly improper not to bring the matter of costs to the attention of the justices, where the section 12 procedure was being followed.

Solicitors: DPP.

Ambulance crew owe seat-belt duty of care to passenger

Eastman v South West Thames Health Authority
Before Mr Justice Judge
[Judgment May 4]

The duty of care owed by an ambulance crew to a passenger in the back of their vehicle included a duty to direct the passenger to a seat where there was a seat belt and to draw her attention to notices urging that a seat belt be worn. In the circumstances, the passenger's failure to wear a seat belt did not amount to contributory negligence.

Mr Justice Judge so held in the Queen's Bench Division giving judgment for Mrs Ivy Una Eastman for damages for injuries sustained through the negligence of the defendant health authority.

Mr Derek Sweeting for the plaintiff, Mr John Douglas for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE JUDGE said on February 24, 1986 Mrs Eastman was a passenger in the back of an ambulance being driven through Romford in Essex. She was accompanying her aged mother-in-law to hospital.

The ambulance driver braked sharply to avoid a schoolboy cyclist who had suddenly ridden into his path. Mrs Eastman was thrown out of her seat and sustained serious injuries.

His Lordship said did not accept that the ambulance had been driven negligently. He found as a fact that Mrs Eastman was unfamiliar with the inside of an ambulance, that she was concerned and anxious about her mother-in-law, and that she had been allowed to sit where she chose within the back of the ambulance.

She had sat in a seat behind the driver, opposite the attendant, Mr David Smith. She had not observed a seat belt and Mr Smith was not wearing one. Mrs Eastman had not seen the notice which stated "For your own safety use the seat belts provided. If you do not, you may be liable to a fine." Mr Smith drew it to her attention.

The plaintiff's case was that given the known risks to passengers sitting in the back of ambulances the defendant's duty to take reasonable care for Mrs Eastman included a duty to identify the seat belt and encourage its use.

The defendant's case was that it had no duty to a passenger who was not a patient to provide a seat belt at all in the back of the ambulance and certainly no duty to see that it was used.

In *Frame v Butcher* ([1976] QB 286) the Court of Appeal had made it clear that in ordinary motor cases the damages to be awarded to a front seat passenger who was not wearing a seat belt, which would otherwise have made his injuries less severe, should be reduced.

From that case the proposition was derived that in the context of seat belts, an adult passenger of reasonable intelligence did not require any warning from the driver to wear a seat belt.

Such a passenger should know all that he needed to know for himself and he could not blame the driver for not pointing it out to him. To that extent the decision in *Pasternack v Poulton* ([1973] WLR 476) was overruled.

Frame v Butcher was binding on any court of first instance and had to be followed. But Mrs

Eastman was a passenger in the back of an ambulance, not in the front of a car.

She would not necessarily have known that seat belts were provided for sedentary passengers or indeed that sitting facing across the side rather than to the front carried a serious risk of injury.

The differences between a front-seat passenger in a car and a back-seat passenger in an ambulance were underlined by the fact that the defendant believed a warning notice was necessary and that, like other authorities with similar obligations, it encouraged its crews to try to persuade patients to use the seat belts.

In his Lordship's judgment, there was a duty on the defendant to take reasonable care for the safety of the plaintiff while she was a passenger in the back of its ambulance.

In the context of the accident, that obligation would have been satisfied if Mr Smith had indicated in some way to the plaintiff that she should be using a seat belt or even had he pointed out the warning notice to her.

It had been argued that even if liability was admitted damages should be reduced for contributory negligence.

However, whether the plaintiff was sitting in a chair with seat belts or not, she was not alerted to the use of them and the attendant was himself not using them.

If she had been given a warning and had ignored it, her claim would have failed. As it was her claim succeeded in full.

Solicitors: Stephenson Harwood; Brachers, Maidstone.

Reasons for prisoner's recall

In re Hales
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Potts
[Judgment April 30]

The Home Office was under no duty to inform a paroled prisoner of the reasons for his recall to prison until his return there (see section 62(3) of the Criminal Justice Act 1967) and had they explained that to his solicitor, the prisoner having then scolded after recall, then subsequent costs and litigation could have been avoided.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when refusing the application of Derek George Hales for a writ of *habeas corpus*.

Mr Bernard Buckley for the applicant.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS. Giving the judgment of the court,

said the applicant was serving a sentence of 21 months for offences of which he had been convicted in June 1988. He was given parole on December 28, 1988 subject to sections 60 and 62 of the 1967 Act.

On March 1, 1989 the Secretary of State for the Home Department revoked his licence which had the effect of requiring the applicant to be arrested and returned to prison. That did not in fact happen until March 21, 1990 when he was returned to Reading prison.

The applicant, who complained that he had not been informed of the reasons for his revocation, did not consult a solicitor concerning his grievance until August or September 1989.

In September the solicitor sent a letter, deserving a careful reply, to the Home Office. The

letter was referred to the probation service so that probation reports could be obtained and the probation service referred the matter back to the Home Office who communicated by telephone with the solicitor but sent no further letter.

What was called for was a letter from the Home Office to the solicitor informing him in terms why the licence had been revoked, the circumstances which were relevant subsequent to the revocation, including the fact that attempts had been made to arrest the applicant, and a request to the solicitor that he should inform the Home Office of the applicant's whereabouts, which he could have refused, rightly or wrongly, to confide.

It was of significance that a prompt response to the solicitor's letter setting out in plain terms what had happened and why, could have avoided the subsequent costs and litigation. But what in terms was told or not told to the solicitor did not enable him to tell his client that there was nothing he could do for him and that he should return to prison and make his representations then.

Solicitor: Davies Blunden & Evans, Yateley.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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Source: NBS July-December 1989.

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Continued on

page 35

Brussels set to parole Palestinian terrorist

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

THE governing board of Louvain prison near Brussels has recommended early parole for a Palestinian terrorist, serving a life sentence for a grenade attack on Jewish children, thus opening the way for a deal that could set free four Belgians held hostage in Beirut.

The prison board recommended that Nasser Saeed should be freed immediately, three months before he would qualify for parole after serving 10 years of a life sentence. His release is the main condition of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, a Libyan-backed group headed by Abu Nidal, which is holding the four Belgians.

Last month the Belgian Government sent a letter to Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, agreeing to sign trade agreements with Libya, and allow Nasser Saeed to go free after his release from prison. In return, the Libyan leader promised to use his influence to obtain the release of Mr Emmanuel Houdekens, his wife Godelieve Kets and their two teenage children, who were kidnapped aboard a yacht in the Mediterranean in 1987.

The proposed early release of the Palestinian threatened to split the coalition Government of Mr Wilfried Martens, Mr Louis Tobback, the Interior Minister, took a tough line against any deal. Other ministers, however, have pressed for greater efforts to obtain the family's release. The release of terrorists has become a sensitive issue here and in Belgium relations with Britain following the expulsion to Ireland of Father Patrick Ryan, who faced extradition to Britain on terrorism charges.

Nasser Saeed was convicted of a grenade attack on an Antwerp synagogue, which

killed one child and wounded 15. He said on sentencing he had no regrets, and would resume guerrilla activities when released. The Louvain prison authorities say he has been a model prisoner.

Their recommendation for early parole has still to be approved by the Antwerp prosecutor, but it is widely expected to lead to a swap. Mr Houdekens is the brother of another kidnap victim, seized off the same yacht with his French girlfriend. They were released last month after the French Government promised aid to Colonel Gaddafi, an action which brought criticism from Britain.

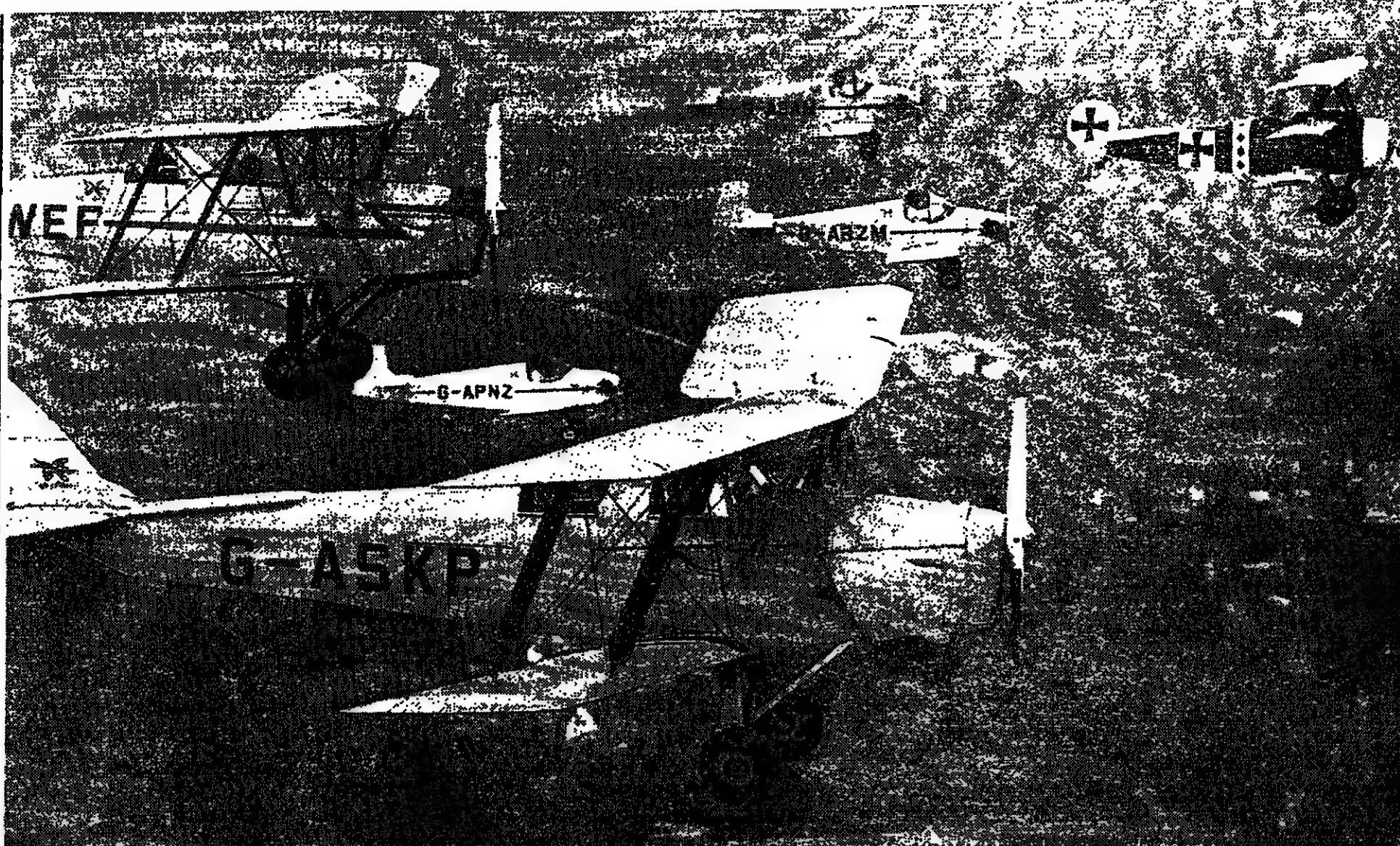
● **BEIRUT:** Kidnappers holding the Belgians said yesterday that the recommendation for parole was a positive step but not sufficient to secure freedom for their hostages.

Mr Walid Khaled, spokesman in Beirut for the Fatah Revolutionary Council, said: "We hope this proposal is met with a positive response by the Belgian Government by immediately releasing Nasser Saeed as a first step to end the Belgian hostage problem."

The Belgian hostages — Emmanuel Houdekens, his wife Godelieve Kets and their two teenage children — were aboard a yacht in the Mediterranean when they were seized in 1987.

Asked about the condition of the Belgian hostages, Khaled said: "They are in good health, they are given regular medical care and are provided with all their daily needs."

The FRC last month freed Houdekens' brother, Fernand, his French lover Jacqueline Valente and their two-year-old daughter Sophie in response to an appeal by Colonel Gaddafi. They were abducted from the same yacht in 1987. (Reuters)



A Fokker triplane leads a Tiger Moth (foreground), a Stampe and three Turbulents in proud formation once again, now that the world famous Tiger Club has fought off the threat of disbandment after 34 years (Helen Johnstone writes). The Tiger Club, named

after the famous Second World War biplane trainer, the De Havilland Tiger Moth, came under threat in March when the crew were asked to leave their hangar at Redhill airfield in Surrey after the lease was refused renewal. Faced with a legal bill of £43,000, and

disheartened after a failed attempt to reopen another airfield, they almost lost hope. However, over 60 club members, including many from other countries, got together, bought the vintage aircraft and found a suitable replacement at Headcorn Airfield in

Kent. The club now operates two Tiger Moths, including the oldest flying example in the world, and six other vintage aircraft. It has among its members the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and the actor Christopher Reeve.

Call to end leadership speculation

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

SIR Geoffrey Howe yesterday called for an end to speculation about Mrs Margaret Thatcher's continuing leadership of the Conservative Party.

In a rebuke to MPs who continue to raise doubts over the Prime Minister's future, Sir Geoffrey spoke of the "turmoil" of last year's leadership challenge and said the manner in which "the leadership issue gets stirred up in this way does no good at all".

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, Sir Geoffrey, the deputy prime minister and leader of the Commons, said the majority of the Conservative parliamentary party was determined to set the issue to one side.

His remarks came as Mr Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, said confusion and infighting in the Tory ranks over the leadership gave Labour a golden opportunity. Conceding that the

Labour Party still had work to do in getting its policies across, Mr Gould urged it to take every opportunity to set out its alternative stall.

As MPs return to Westminster today after the Bank holiday break, the implications of last week's local government election results, and the differing interpretations among Conservatives, seem certain to dominate events.

Mr Michael Heseltine's re-

entry later this week into the community charge debate is causing intense interest among MPs. He is expected to call for important changes to the poll tax, though not for its abolition.

He is expected to propose ways in which average poll tax bills could be reduced by relating it more to people's ability to pay.

Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Police chief calls for football veto

Continued from page 1

change the date. They refused to do this.

Mr Arthur Sandford, chief executive of the Football League, rejected the allegation of arrogance or complacency. He said: "The Bournemouth police made a request last June when the fixtures were being put together. Viewed as of last June, this was not considered a more difficult

match than a number of others that were being played.

"It is right that the Bournemouth police came back to us about a fortnight before the match — when it became clear it was a promotion-relegation battle — and voiced their concern. Despite that, the decision was taken that this match, on the last day of the season, when you are going to get games involving promotion and relegation, should take place.

"The Chief Constable wrote to us on April 23 and we received the letter on April 25 in which he repeated, his concern, setting it out in some detail. Nevertheless, he did say in this letter he was well prepared to make the necessary arrangements to police this match.

"We are not complacent. We will be reviewing arrangements for matches particularly on the last day of the season.

The Home Office reacted with caution to Mr Weight's call. A spokesman said, however, that it was sensible for football authorities to take account of police advice.

Prince brings royal approval to free land of his ancestor

From Alan Hamilton, Budapest

THE Prince and Princess of Wales arrived in Budapest yesterday to begin a four-day official visit to Hungary, the first by any member of the Royal Family to a Warsaw Pact nation. The Prince thus comes to the land of his great great grandmother, Countess Rethy. She was an ancestor of Queen Mary, and a Hungarian aristocrat buried in what is now Rumanian Transylvania. The Prince recalled her last year during a speech condemning the late

President Ceausescu's programme of demolishing Romanian villages.

Unusually for a travelling show dedicated to precision timing, the BAe 146 aircraft of the Queen's Flight landed at Budapest 45 minutes late after it developed a minor electrical fault on take-off from Heathrow with the Princess on board, forcing it to make an unscheduled landing at Gatwick. It subsequently called at Ancona in Eastern Italy to collect the Prince, who had been opening an exhibition of his own paintings and sketches in Raphael's birthplace of

Urbino. The Royal couple were greeted by Dr Arpad Goncz, who emerged from obscurity in the wake of the first democratic elections since 1945 to be nominated as President only last Wednesday.

Small signs of Hungary's new found democracy abounded at the arrival ceremony. As the band played *God Bless Hungarians*, the old 19th-century national anthem, Mrs Zsuzsa Goncz, the President's wife, went openly. As Prince and Princess walked the red carpet to inspect the guard of honour, the band struck up a familiar Austro-

Hungarian relic, the *Radetzky March*.

If the Prince was looking closely, he would have seen that the Hungarian army uniforms, although still looking decidedly Russian, had lost the Red Star on their cap badge, now replaced by a small circle showing the national colours of red, white, and green.

Riding in his own Bentley brought over as an advertisement for British manufacturing, the Prince went to Heroes Square in Budapest, which commemorates national figures from long before

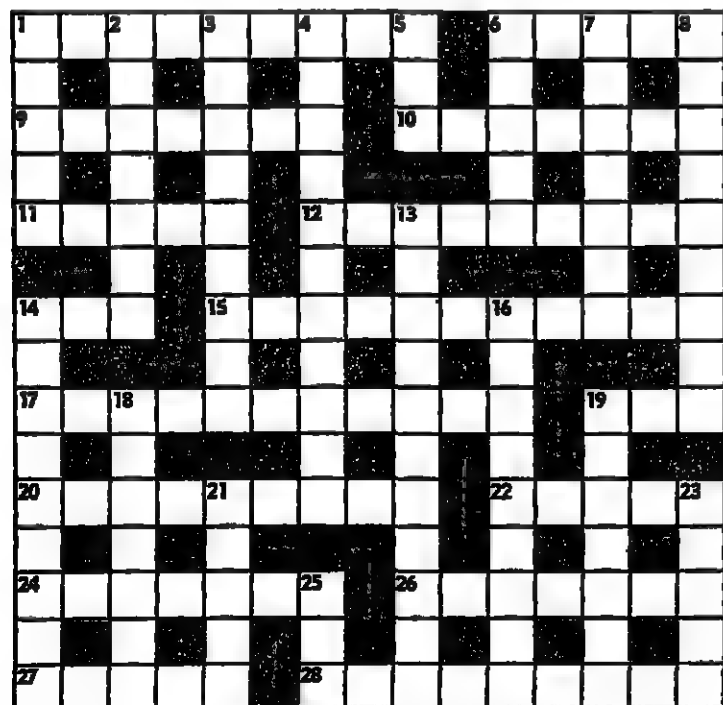
the communist interlude, and laid a wreath at the base of a 100-foot column surmounted by a statue of the Archangel Gabriel holding the Apostolic Cross.

Later, at the magnificently Gothic Hungarian Parliament building on the Danube, which has also had the huge Red Star removed from its dome, the Prince met Mr Miklos Nemeth, the caretaker prime minister and a member of the reforming communist regime which has been voted out of power and Dr Jozsef Antall, who is about to take over as head of a

coalition after the victory of the Hungarian Democratic Forum in last month's elections.

Both the Princess Royal and the Duke of Edinburgh have made private visits to Hungary in the past in connection with their equestrian and Mrs Thatcher visited the country in 1984. This first official visit, made in response to an invitation from the outgoing communist last year, was described by Mr John Burch, the British Ambassador in Budapest, as "a political visit with a clear political message."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,288



- ACROSS**
- Stroke or a comma, maybe (9).
 - Source of oils for painter following Constable, perhaps (5).
 - About to join expedition north? That's correct (7).
 - Wine stain, sad to say, returns (7).
 - Relative beginners in navigation inducing extensive compass errors (5).
 - Capital better advanced (9).
 - Retiring cast? (3).
 - Indicator of distance, but not as rigid rule (4-7).
 - Eastern runner in dark suit and light shoes (11).
 - Took turn by junction (3).
 - Worker in firm put in charge expresses amazement (9).
 - Lists and turns over (5).
 - Why, say, boy with French friend sent back pictures (7).
- DOWN**
- Footstool successfully brought home (5).
 - For example, Othello's attempt to trap Ancient (7).
 - Appealed to doctor in dire need (9).
 - A digital recording? (11).
 - Plant eaten by many Americans (3).
 - Pass round article read initially to provide notes (5).
 - Table helping served on gold (7).
 - Centours in centrally-heated accommodation (9).
 - Byzantine consented to retaining disastrous Act (11).
 - Extent of usefulness on board (5-4).
 - Able to imbibe in bar on best cocktail (9).
 - Duck or grouse — it needs plain cooking (7).
 - Pygmalion made her a celebration meal (7).
 - Army rising securing intelligence from emissary (5).
 - Second kiss of little substance (5).
 - Approval given to son supporting the old (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,287

1. STROKE
2. OILS
3. NORTH
4. RETURNS
5. COMPASS
6. ADVANCED
7. CORRECT
8. BOY
9. TABLE
10. DISTANCE
11. EASTERN
12. CAPITAL
13. RETIRING
14. INDICATOR
15. RIGID
16. RULE
17. RUNNER
18. SHOES
19. JUNCTION
20. WORKER
21. AMAZEMENT
22. LISTS
23. TURNS
24. WHY
25. BOY
26. FRENCH

Concise Crossword, page 22

WEATHER

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a rather cloudy day with showers, some heavy and thundery. Northern England, Wales, The Midlands and the south-west will have a mixture of sunshine and showers, with the best of the sunshine in the west. The south-east will be sunny and generally dry. It will feel cooler everywhere. Outlook: sunny intervals but cloudy at times with scattered showers.

ABROAD

Midday: 1=cloudy; 2=drizzle; 3=fog; 4=sun; 5=clear; 6=rain; 7=showers; 8=thunder; 9=light; 10=moderate; 11=heavy			
Algeria	20 68	Malaga	21 70
Amman	20 68	Madrid	19 65
Amman	20 68	Manila	25 78
Amman	20 68	Mexico C	25 78
Amman	20 68	Moscow	15 58
Amman	20 68	Mumbai	25 78
Amman	20 68	Nairobi	21 70
Amman	20 68	Paris	15 58
Amman	20 68	Rangoon	25 78
Amman	20 68	Seoul	15 58
Amman	20 68	Singapore	25 78
Amman	20 68	Taipei	25 78
Amman	20 68	Tokyo	25 78
Amman	20 68	Yokohama	25 78
Amman	20 68	Zurich	15 58

AROUND BRITAIN

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5
16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
17.5	18.5	19.5	20.5
18.5	19.5	20.5	21.5
19.5	20.5	21.5	22.5
20.5	21.5	22.5	23.5
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93.5	94.5	95.5	96.5
94.5	95.5	96.5	97.5
95.5	96.5	97.5	98.5
96.5	97.5	98.5	99.5
97.5	98.5	99.5	100.5

SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford	706
W & S Yorks & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glem & Gwent	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humbershire	713
Derbyshire & Notts	714
Gwynedd & Chwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Essex	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
W Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
W & S Yorks & Essex	725
Gairnness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: London Weather Centre, 26C (79F), lowest day max: Cape Town, 10C (50F), highest night min: 10C (50F), lowest night min: 10C (50F), highest rain: 10C (50F), lowest rain: 10C (50F), highest snow: 10C (50F), lowest snow: 10C (50F), highest ice: 10C (50F), lowest ice: 10C (50F), highest wind: 10C (50F), lowest wind: 10C (50F), highest pressure: 10C (50F), lowest pressure: 10C (50F), highest humidity: 10C (50F), lowest humidity: 10C (50F), highest visibility: 10C (50F), lowest visibility: 10C (50F), highest cloud: 10C (50F), lowest cloud: 10C (50F), highest fog: 10C (50F), lowest fog: 10C (50F), highest rain: 10C (50F), lowest rain: 10C (50F), highest snow: 10C (50F), lowest snow: 10C (50F), highest ice: 10C (50F), lowest ice: 10C (50F), highest wind: 10C (50F), lowest wind: 10C (50F), highest pressure: 10C (50F), lowest pressure: 10C (50F), highest humidity: 10C (50F), lowest humidity: 10C (50F), highest visibility: 10C (50F), lowest visibility: 10C (50F), highest cloud: 10C (50F), lowest cloud: 10C (50F), highest fog: 10C (50F), lowest fog: 10C (50F), highest rain: 10C (50F), lowest rain: 10C (50F), highest snow: 10C (50F), lowest snow: 10C (50F), highest ice: 10C (50F), lowest ice: 10C (50F), highest wind: 10C (50F), lowest wind: 10C (50F), highest pressure: 10C (50F), lowest pressure: 10C (50F), highest humidity: 10C (50F), lowest humidity: 10C (50F), highest visibility: 10C (50F), lowest visibility: 10C (50F), highest cloud: 10C (50F), lowest cloud: 10C (50F), highest fog: 10C (50F), lowest fog: 10C (50F), highest rain: 10C (50F), lowest rain: 10C (50F), highest snow: 10C (50F), lowest snow: 10C (50F), highest ice: 10C (50F), lowest ice: 10C (50F), highest wind: 10C (50F), lowest wind: 10C (50F), highest pressure: 10C (50F), lowest pressure: 10C (50F), highest humidity: 10C (50F), lowest humidity: 10C (50F), highest visibility: 10C (50F), lowest visibility: 10C (50F), highest cloud: 10C (50F), lowest cloud: 10C (50F), highest fog: 10C (50F), lowest fog: 10C (50F), highest rain: 10C (50F), lowest rain: 10C (50F), highest snow: 10C (50F), lowest snow: 10C (50F), highest ice: 10C (50F), lowest ice: 10C (50F), highest wind: 10C (50F), lowest wind: 10C (50F), highest pressure: 10C (50F), lowest pressure: 10C (50F), highest humidity: 10C (50F), lowest humidity: 10C (50F), highest visibility: 10C (50F), lowest visibility: 10C (50F), highest cloud: 10C (50F), lowest cloud: 10C (50F), highest fog: 10C (50F), lowest fog: 10C (50F), highest rain: 10C (50F), lowest rain: 10C (50F), highest snow: 10C (50F), lowest snow: 10C (50F), highest ice: 10C (50F), lowest ice: 10C (50F), highest wind: 10C (50F), lowest wind: 10C (50F), highest pressure: 10C (50F), lowest pressure: 10C (50F), highest humidity: 10C (50F), lowest humidity: 10C (50F), highest visibility: 10C (50F), lowest visibility: 10C (50F), highest cloud: 10C (50F), lowest cloud: 10C (50F), highest fog: 10C (50F), lowest fog: 10C (50F), highest rain: 10C (50F), lowest rain: 10C (50F), highest snow: 10C (50F), lowest snow: 10C (50F), highest ice: 10C (50F), lowest ice: 10C (50F), highest wind: 10C (50F), lowest wind: 10C (50F), highest pressure: 10C (50F), lowest pressure: 10C (50F), highest humidity: 10C (50F), lowest humidity: 10C (50F), highest visibility: 10C (50F), lowest visibility: 10C (50F), highest cloud: 10C (50F), lowest cloud: 10C (50F), highest fog: 10C (50F), lowest fog: 10C (50F), highest rain: 10C (50F), lowest rain: 10C (50F), highest snow: 10C (50F), lowest snow: 10C (50F), highest ice: 10C (50F), lowest ice: 10C (50F), highest wind: 10C (50F), lowest wind: 10C (50F), highest pressure: 10C (50F), lowest pressure: 10C (50F), highest humidity: 10C (50F), lowest humidity: 10C (50F), highest visibility: 10C (50F), lowest visibility: 10C (50F), highest cloud: 10C (50F), lowest cloud: 10C (50F), highest fog: 10C (50F), lowest fog: 10C (50F), highest rain: 10C (50F), lowest rain: 10C (50F), highest snow: 1

BUSINESS

SECTION 2

TUESDAY MAY 8 1990

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-30
● FOCUS ON THE POST OFFICE 31-34
● SPORT 39-46

Executive Editor
David Brewerton
CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6610 (+0.0245)
W German mark
2.7774 (+0.0347)
Exchange index
87.6 (+0.9)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1996.8 (+38.1)
FT-SE 100
2162.2 (+55.6)
USM (Datastream)
130.16 (-2.23)

European firms 'back a single currency'

By Colin Narborough
Economics Correspondent

A MAJORITY of Europe's leading companies want a single European currency rather than a common unit which would operate alongside national currencies.

This is understood to be one of the key findings in a survey conducted by Ernst & Young, the business services group, which has been made available to the European Commission ahead of publication later this month. It forms part of a detailed report produced jointly with the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

The Commission has put the cost to business of foreign exchange transactions at ECU 15 billion. Companies believe a single currency would produce still greater savings and benefits.

A single currency would replace existing national currencies and remove the need to hedge against foreign exchange fluctuations.

Though the ECU has gained widespread acceptance in financial markets, it has limited commercial use.

Big businesses backing for a single currency contrast sharply with the Government's resistance to the concept of a single currency.

Mr Malcolm Levitt, senior partner at Ernst & Young, anticipates that the study could have considerable impact on current thinking about EMU. It not only charts the views of leading companies, but puts forward a strategy and timetable for developing a single currency.

STOCK MARKETS

New York: Dow Jones 2784.32 (+13.98)
Tokyo: Nikkei Average 3086.27 (+782.63)
Hong Kong: Hang Seng 2958.91 (+11.94)
Amsterdam: CSE Tendency 117.4 (+0.6)
Sydney: AD 1478.0 (+16.8)
Frankfurt: DAX 1934.96 (+22.06)
Brussels: General 6070.82 (-28.77)
Paris: CAC 557.60 (+0.65)
Zurich: SKA Gen 597.0 (+0.3)

London: FT-AI Share 1067.95 (+11.64)
FT-500 1165.45 (+11.41)
FT Gold Mines 215.6 (+0.11)
FT Fixed Interest 75.99 (+1.09)
FT Govt Secs 75.99 (+1.09)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base Rate 15%
3-month Interbank 15.1-15.6%
3-month eligible bills 14.2-14.4%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8.75%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.79-7.78%
30-year bonds 9.5-9.6%

CURRENCIES

London: New York £/\$1.6610
C: \$1.6610
E: DM1.8555
S: Sfr1.4315
C: FF9.3216
E: Yen253.104
C: Index 87.61
ECU 50.740989 SD 20.791358
E: ECU1.349547 E: SD1.263650

GOLD

London: AM \$371.401 pm-\$371.301
close \$371.00-371.50 (\$223.50)
New York: Comex \$371.70-372.20

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jun) \$16.50 bbl
Denotes Friday's close
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.16	2.16
Austria S	20.45	19.15
Belgium F	60.35	56.30
Canada C	2.00	1.98
Denmark Kr	11.40	10.37
Finland Mk	5.71	5.11
France F	2.00	2.00
Germany DM	2.00	2.00
Greece Dr	13.36	12.64
Hong Kong \$	1.00	1.00
Ireland P	2.00	2.00
Italy Lira	277.50	261.50
Japan Yen	3.25	3.08
Netherlands Gld	11.35	10.50
Norway Kr	257.50	241.50
Portugal Esc	200	180
Spain Ptas	165.3	153
Sweden Kr	2.51	2.35
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.90
Turkey Lira	1.74	1.54
USA \$	24.50	17.50
Yugoslavia Dnr		

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as accepted by Bank PLC. Discount rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 121.4 (March)

Inflation to fall early next year, says Major

From Rodney Lord
Economics Editor, Washington

THE Chancellor, Mr John Major, told the International Monetary Fund that the process of reining back excessive demand and bringing down inflation in Britain was "well under way." Speaking to the interim committee of the Fund in Washington, he said there should be a distinct fall in inflation by the beginning of next year and that there might then be scope for lower interest rates.

The main item on the IMF's agenda is to agree the long-delayed increase in national quotas (subscriptions). The way forward has been opened by an agreement among the Group of Seven leading industrial countries to let West Germany and Japan share second place in the Fund, and Britain

and France fourth. Reviewing Britain's economic progress, Mr Major said that after the rapid economic expansion of recent years, it was necessary to have a period of slow growth. Bringing down inflation looked like taking longer and being more difficult than the Government had hoped.

The level of pay settlements, which was running at about 2 per cent above last year's rate, was disappointing and would lead to weaker job prospects. But in spite of last month's poor figures, the trade balance was improving.

Mr Major said the increase in inflation was remarkable for having occurred during a period of tight fiscal policy and generally tight monetary policy. Part of the explanation was the interaction of financial deregulation with several successive years

of growth in incomes. One of the priorities was to increase the level of savings worldwide. Britain had made a contribution with the measures in the Budget.

With the average rate of inflation among G7 countries at about 5 per cent, continued vigilance on prices was necessary. Capital calls from East Europe and elsewhere made it unwise to encourage lower savings in the countries in balance of payments surplus such as West Germany and Japan.

In a communiqué issued late on Sunday, the G7 indicated that the yen was still too low. While noting that the Japanese currency had stabilized since last month's G7 meeting in Paris, they "remained of the view that the present level may have undesirable consequences for the global adjustment process."

● The communiqué buoyed the yen in Tokyo yesterday (writes Joe Joseph), but the Japanese currency benefited even more from the news on Friday that US employment grew more slowly than expected last month.

That indicated that the US economy is not as strong as many analysts had calculated, giving the US Federal Reserve little reason to tighten monetary policy and thereby strengthen the dollar against the yen.

Meanwhile, share prices in Tokyo climbed nearly 800 points yesterday, reinforcing the optimism among Japanese investors that the worst may be over for both the stock market and the shrinking yen.

The Nikkei index, which gained 483.81 points last Wednesday before the market closed for national holidays, jumped

another 782.63 points to 30,956.27. Analysts said confidence is seeping back into Tokyo dealing rooms and fears that the dollar would sail well past the 160-yen level are receding, lessening the threat of another painful rise in Japanese interest rates. They added that technical indicators also suggest the stock market is emerging from its slump.

Hiccups in this week's US Treasury auction could unsettle currency markets and choke off the recovery in Tokyo's stock market. But the dwindling prospect of a rise in US interest rates has revived Japanese investors' appetite for the auction.

Indications are that the Japanese will probably buy about 30 per cent of the \$30.5 billion US bond sale, more or less in line with their usual buying patterns.

Late payment by Russia worries firms

By Wolfgang Münch, European Business Correspondent

LEADING Western companies are complaining that export trade with the Soviet Union is becoming increasingly disrupted by late and irregular payments.

A rapid deterioration since the end of the year is causing concern at ministerial level in West Germany, whose trade with Eastern Europe dwarfs that of other European countries.

There are fears that Soviet trade with the West, which has been growing rapidly, may stagnate this year because of administrative problems and a shortage of "hard" currency.

Until last autumn, the Soviet Union was regarded as an exemplary debtor and settled bills promptly. However, the situation began to deteriorate at the beginning of this year.

A spokesman for BASF, the West German chemical company whose trade with the Soviet Union amounted to DM1 billion last year, said: "Since the end of last year we have had problems with the Soviet Union. Since the beginning of January, these problems have worsened rapidly."

BASF imports crude oil from the USSR and sells back value-added chemicals. Hoechst in Frankfurt, the world's largest chemical supplier to the Soviet Union, experiences similar difficulties. A spokesman said: "We look with some apprehension

at the situation. During the last weeks we have noticed that payments come in rather irregularly and infrequently."

There is growing concern at the Bonn economics ministry over the situation. It is estimated that these problems could result in a stagnation of trade with the USSR this year, as West German companies become increasingly cautious.

In previous years, German-Soviet trade increased by about 20 per cent annually. West German companies have been hit particularly hard because of their large exposure to Soviet trade. In the UK, however, the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) and the Department of Trade and Industry said that there was no cause for alarm yet, although there were reports of similar incidents on a smaller scale.

The difference is partly explained by Britain's lacklustre trade efforts with the USSR. Anglo-Soviet trade amounted to £682 million last year, compared with West Germany's DM11.5 billion (£4.2 billion).

Although the large chemical companies have suffered more than most, payment delays are even more serious for small and medium sized companies. One Hamburg trading company may soon be forced into liquidation because of delayed payment. Another small company is owed DM500,000 from Lithuania and Heine-

mann Maschinen- und Anlagenbau, a medium-large Southern German machinery producer, has been owed more than DM14 million for a year. The company's bank, Deutsche Bank, has cut vital credit lines as a result.

According to Herr Stephan Jaschek, a Hamburg management consultant specializing in East-West trade, these cases exemplify some of the problems of perestroika.

"In the days before perestroika, there used to be 60 export trade companies in the Soviet Union. As a result of deregulation, this has increased to between 5,000 and 6,000 firms. It is principally an organizational problem."

According to a senior West German banker, the problems could be much more serious. "We fear that the Soviet Union might suffer from a shortage of foreign currencies," he said.

The USSR has been hit by a fall in world market prices of natural gas and crude oil and other natural resources, which amount to about three-quarters of its exports. Although the USSR owns large amounts of gold and platinum, which could be turned into hard currency, it is more likely that the Soviet government might seek a bridging loan to cover the shortfall until its own exports, particularly of value-added products, are picking up.

Euro bank deal, page 27

Bid-target Dixons predicts profits higher than forecast

By Martin Waller

DIXONS Group, the electrical retailer which is now back on full bid alert, has bolstered its defence with news that it will beat its earlier profits forecast for the year to April 28.

In January, shortly before the £568 million hostile offer from Kingfisher lapsed after a reference to the Monopolies Commission, Dixons forecast at least £70 million pre-tax for the year, earnings per share of not less than 11p and a 5.6p dividend.

With the MMC report now with the Trade Secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley, and a decision expected soon, the Dixons chairman has told its shareholders that it had outperformed that forecast despite the tough retail environment.

"Our strategy is working," said Mr Stanley Kalms. "We have already completed much of the restructuring required to reposition the UK retail business and increase its efficiency."

Opinion is split in the City on whether Kingfisher, the combine that owns the Woolworth and Comet retail chains, will be allowed to return to the attack. But Dixons has moved to stiffen shareholders' resistance to a new and higher offer, promising an updated profits forecast if one emerges, while attacking Comet's record.

Dixons is expected to bring forward the formal announcement of its results, due in July, if the battle breaks out again. Analysts now expect pre-tax profits of approaching £78 million, just short of £78.4 million reported last time.

The shareholders' letter highlights better efficiency and "significant increases" in gross margins. "Even a small improvement in sales will result in a dramatic increase in profits," said Mr Kalms. "We are confident that the actions we are taking would enable us to progress even in a flat sales environment."

Kingfisher's first shot at Dixons was pitched at 120p, the price at which the shares closed on Friday.

Kingfisher was guarded in its comments on the letter. "I was surprised they felt it necessary to write to shareholders at this stage, in advance of any decision by the Secretary of State, and certainly in advance of any decision taken by ourselves," said Mr Nigel Whitaker, corporate affairs director.



High hopes: Stephen Burton of Dennis Vehicles beneath a fire engine ladder

Dennis is winning the drive for sales

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

WHILE many commercial vehicle makers are facing tough times, with truck sales down by a quarter or more, Dennis Specialist Vehicles, of Guildford, Surrey, - best known for the fire engines it has been making since 1908 - is increasing production capacity by a half, and spending £10 million on a new factory.

Dennis Vehicles and two sister companies - one of them, Dennis Eagle, specializes in making refuse vehicles - came out of the then mini-conglomerate Hestair in a management buy-out in January last year. One of the three managers which led the buy-out - via the umbrella company Trinity Holdings - was Mr Stephen Burton, managing director of Dennis Vehicles.

Dennis Vehicles builds coaches and buses as well as fire engines, exporting a third of production. Dennis goes back to 1895 when it was producing bicycles.

Mr Burton said: "Where we have scored is in producing vehicles which are tailor-made for the needs of niche markets where the big volume producers have merely tried to adapt more general vehicles."

Dennis sells 350 fire engines a year and claims 16 per cent of the £108 million annual coach market. Last year it added a "new breed" of bus, the Dart midi-bus, carrying about 40 passengers, and Mr Burton reckons Dennis is tapping a market for about 600 such vehicles a year.

Trinity last time had an £80 million turnover and trading profits of £4 million. With vehicle volumes up, both figures are expected to drive further ahead this year.

Economic pessimism by directors

By Our City Staff

BRITAIN'S company directors are increasingly pessimistic about the state of the economy, although they remain confident about their own businesses, according to a Business Opinion Survey from the Institute of Directors.

The IoD says 64 per cent of its directors responding to the survey are less optimistic about the economy than they were six months ago. Only 15 per cent are more optimistic.

However, 52 per cent of directors are more optimistic about their own companies' prospects. Almost half reported rising profits, and 79 per cent thought their companies were doing well.

"Despite doubts, the grassroots voice of business is positive," Mr Peter Morgan, director general of the IoD, said.

Hart of the Midsummer matter

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

EUROPEAN Leisure's controversial bid for Midsummer Leisure has taken another dramatic twist.

With only days to go before the final deadline, Midsummer's belated attempt to extricate itself from the merger conceived by its own chairman has been slammed by one of its former directors.

Mr Ron Hart, brought in by Mr Adam Page, the chairman of Midsummer, last August to run the group's breweries, but who resigned in March over what he describes as "bizarre management processes," is urging investors to accept the European offer. Midsummer reached agreement on merger terms last month, but pulled out when leisure share prices in general, and European's in particular, slid on the stock market. However, by then, the directors' 15.1 per cent holdings were irrevocably locked in.

Yesterday, Mr Hart claimed that Midsummer "has been blindly led by a mercurial chairman and other directors have been unable to stop the company's

decline. Midsummer has lost its way entirely. I believe the board is boxed in and will struggle now to maintain profits or make disposals," he said, adding that "the current climate for highly-gearred leisure companies makes European's offer additionally attractive."

Mr Hart, aged 50, was invited to join Midsummer by Mr Page, "a close friend of 12 or 13 years," after Brent Walker, who was managing director, moved to Hartlepool last summer. He claims to have been responsible for a "significant improvement" in the brewing division's trading. While he claimed to remain "on the best of terms with the Walkers," his relationship with Mr Page was "probably best described as 'non-existent' at present, although our wives, both German, remain very close." Of the bid, Mr Hart said he had a "duty to shareholders and former colleagues to make my own position absolutely clear."

However, Mr Paul Reece, who takes over as chief executive of Midsummer

when Mr Page steps down on Friday afternoon - provided that the bid lapses - said last night: "I can only question Mr Hart's motives. I am very surprised to hear that an ex-director who was with us for such a short space of time could make a statement like this. Frankly, he was a disappointment to us, failing to live up to expectations."

Mr Michael Ward, the chairman of European Leisure, remained critical of Midsummer's failure to produce a profits estimate for the year ended March. Mr Reece, who plans to publish Midsummer interim results on May 17, said: "Had European not foreshortened its deadline, they would have had the benefit of our interim results."

European had 34.33 per cent of the Midsummer equity last week, including the 19.8 per cent irrevocably accepted by the board and others. The bid expires at 1pm on Friday.

Tempus, page 26

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Foreign buyers set sights on Target

By Neil Bennett
Banking Correspondent

TARGET Life may become the latest asset manager to fall into Continental hands, after being put up for sale by the TSB Group last week.

Hill Samuel, the merchant bank handling Target's sale, says it has contacted about 20 potential buyers and some of them are thought to be from mainland Europe.

French and German banks have led the sudden rush from the Continent to buy a place in one of the City's most lucrative industries. Last week Crédit Commercial de France became the latest European bank to succeed by agreeing to buy a 25 per cent stake in Framlington, the fund manager owned by Throgmorton Trust, for £18.75 million, with an option to increase this to 51 per cent.

Previously, Gartmore was sold by British & Commonwealth to Banque Indosuez, while Société Générale acquired Touche Renmant for £50 million last year. Bank in Liechtenstein paid £91 million for GT Management, with funds of £3.3 billion.

Morgan Grenfell's asset management operation was a major reason for Deutsche Bank's £950 million bid last December, which created a combined fund of £3.3 billion. Asset management has always been an attractive business for bankers, due to the relatively regular, dependable fees it produces.

Apart from the large wholesale funds, investors tend to be conservative and are unwilling to switch companies. Profits from most other banking businesses can fluctuate widely.

At the same time, many industrial companies in Europe which previously managed their own pension funds are beginning to look at ways they can have the business off to professional managers. Banks such as Deutsche and Indosuez want to be able to sign up their corporate clients for the new service.

European bankers concede that London is the European centre for investment management, and are prepared to pay high prices for the expertise of City managers and the profit stream from their existing portfolios.

This round of initial acquisitions could develop into a series of rationalizations. CCF, for example, has noted the economies of scale in managing large funds and could be prepared for further acquisitions to increase the size of its funds.

Little to inspire shareholders of Midsummer as decision day nears

MIDSUMMER Leisure investors have until Friday to decide whether to do as their board has done, and accept European Leisure's bid, or do as it says, and reject it.

The choice is not an inspiring one, and no less difficult for that.

Either shareholders accept, and swap their shares for European paper, whose firmness was the reason for their board's late change of mind, or they continue to back the debt-laden Midsummer, and its volatile board.

It should not have come as too much of a surprise when Midsummer chief Mr Adam Page withdrew his support for the merger. His company's history is littered with a succession of failures to get to the altar.

Talks with Lincolnshire brewer George Bateman were broken off, the company emerged with a substantial loss from its misguided attempt to acquire the Boddingtons brewing group and last year the company flirted with Leisure Investments, now in the hands of administrators.

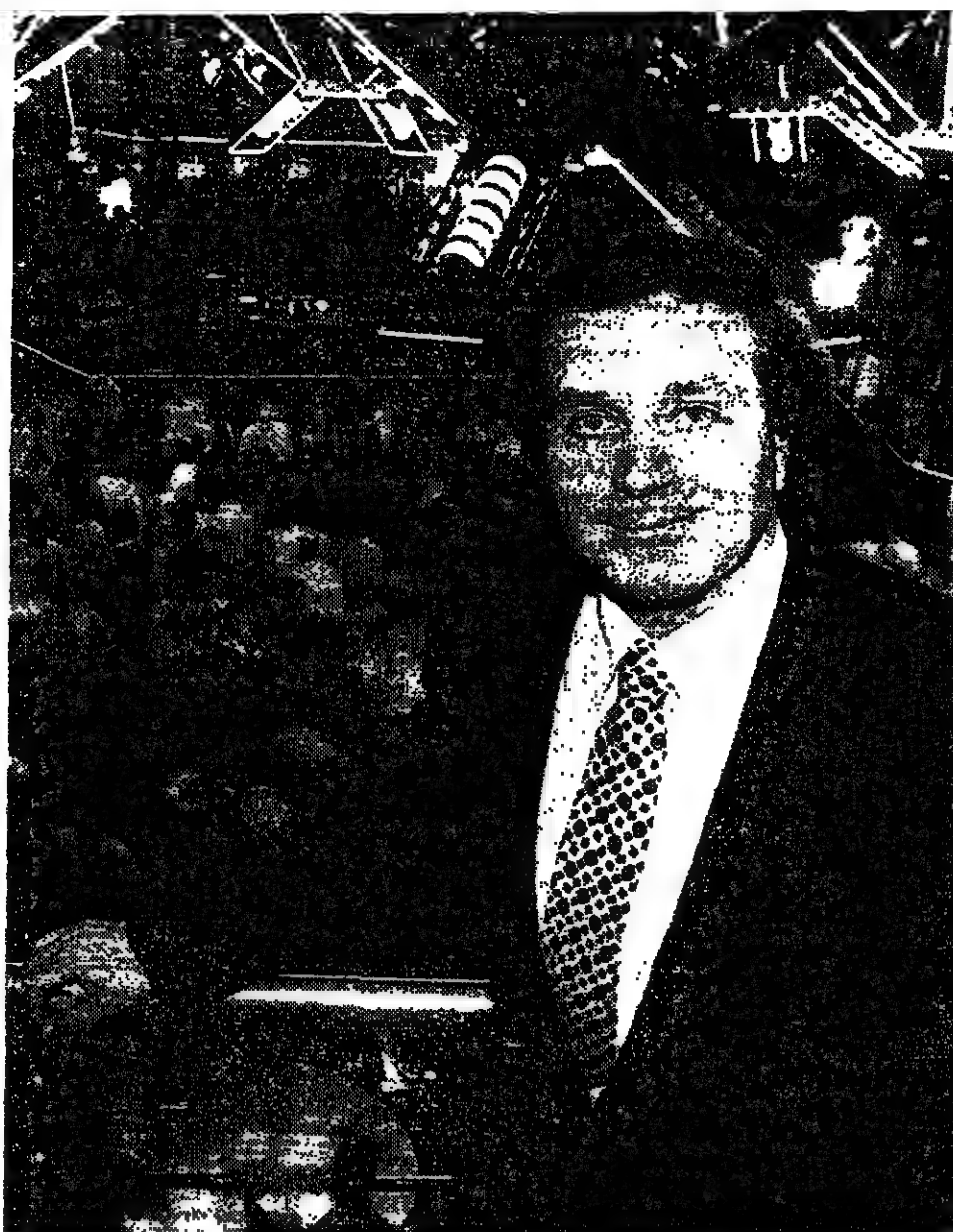
More than 14.5 per cent had opted for change by the first closing date, swelling support for European, chaired by Michael Ward, to 34.33 per cent. And now a former director is urging acceptance. Yet the market continues to bet on a failure. Midsummer's share price — at 120p a good 20p below the bid valuation — argues that a European victory will lead to a further fall in the European price.

It would after all see its gearing soar from nil to about 60 per cent overnight, although the talks that took place while the two groups were still friends identified some early disposals.

Alone, Midsummer faces the same problems, and shareholders would do well to remember that its directors forecast a gearing level of 60 per cent at the end of September, 1988 would fall in the ensuing year, only for it to top 100 per cent.

Henderson Crosthwaite analyst Paul Heath reckons Midsummer's balance sheet is not strong enough to reinvest for longer-term growth. He, and others, believe in the logic of a merger. Together they could make £23 million pre-tax next year, although earnings growth would be restricted by the share issue to perhaps 8 per cent at 9.4p, suggesting a 6.7 p/e multiple at the 63p share price. The sector average suggests a price of 85p.

On balance, Midsummer



Growing support: Michael Ward's European Leisure has 34.33% of Midsummer

holders should accept, but should question the wisdom of investing in this sector at all at present.

Europa

RECENT results from Europa Minerals go to show that investors can reap rewards — even if only a penny — from junior mining companies this side of heaven.

Europa has declared a maiden dividend of 1p a share out of net earnings of 5.3p a share earned in the year ended January 31, and though the year's net attributable profit of £2.41 million was largely helped by £4.97 million from investment realizations, Europa's dividend policy is not going to be "go-stop."

The company, set up in 1984, largely by former RTZ

staff, made its market debut in February 1989, after a placing at 100p a share.

Europa's initial interests were British and Australian coal operations, plus stakes in gold-mining operations in North America.

Towards the end of 1989, Europa expanded through the acquisition of TR Energy, the oil and gas investment company, and also in 1989 acquired a 41.8 per cent stake in Burnine, the Australian gold mining company currently producing at the rate of 35,000 ounces of gold a year.

Mr David Hood, chairman, said his hope was that Europa would have a market capitalization of more than £150 million within three years.

He may find himself waiting for a good three years for that hope to be realized —

Europa was capitalized at £10.4 million in November, and after a midweek fall has a market capitalization of £35.4 million at 58p a share.

However, Europa at least remains ambitious, and, as Mr Hood said, if 1989 was the group's year for Australia, then 1990 should be the year of North America.

Europa is also on the look-out in continental Europe for mining opportunities, with Spain a favoured territory, and has gross cash holdings of £3.6 million at balance sheet date, plus the ability to call on more internal funds when the need arises.

Last year's net earnings of 5.3p put the shares on an historic rating of 11.3, which eased to 7.25 on this year's share hopes.

Shareholders will receive

their penny from heaven on July 20. If things go well, they could be receiving at least two pennies a year from now.

Channel

Express

LAST week was not a good one for small airlines. Davies & Newman announced a £13 million downturn into loss in 1989, due to problems with its Dan-Air subsidiary, two days after the collapse of German Wings, the German independent.

Coming after the closure of three British carriers since the summer — Paramount Airways, British Island Airways and Novair — it is scarcely surprising that shares in another small airline, Channel Express, ended the week on a 12-month 89p low.

Channel Express was set up in the 1970s to fly flower crops from the Channel Islands to mainland markets, but since Mr Philip Meeson, the chairman and principal shareholder, took over seven years ago, the company has branched out into flying parcels for customers such as the Post Office, Federal Express and UPS.

This concentration on specialized freight operations has insulated Channel Express from problems elsewhere in the sector.

Limited further growth is possible in the Channel Island flower business because of its dominating market share. But the overnight parcels market is growing 40 per cent a year.

In 1988-89, when Channel Express floated on the USM, Mr Meeson doubled the airline's fleet from four to eight Dart Herald aircraft to cope with expanding opportunities on the parcels side.

Even though these aircraft have 15 years' life left in them, they cost only £500,000 each and the company ended the year with net cash.

In November, Mr Meeson bought his first Lockheed Electra aircraft, which has three times the capacity of the Herald, but costs just \$2 million.

That suggests a degree of confidence, also reflected in brokers' forecasts of profits of £1.35 million and earnings per share of 7.7p for the year to March, 1990, due to be announced next month.

On a prospective p/e ratio of 12, the shares are attractive despite market nervousness about small companies in general and airlines in particular.

Edited by John Bell

Why bond price rally may follow economic slump

The gilt market's present malaise is by no means unique. The first few months of 1990 contain all the hallmarks of a typical bear market.

Good news of any nature will do little more than halt the inexorable fall in prices.

Bad news, however slight, will drive the market to ever lower levels and at some stage all eventualities will be more than fully discounted.

Logically, trends in prices tend to follow the business cycle. The initial stages of a downturn will be accompanied by a faltering in the market's positive progress.

At this stage, inflation is normally rising and factors such as credit growth are expanding at a rapid pace.

Nevertheless, market participants maintain the belief that the economy's ills are only temporary. Thus bond prices remain "sticky," falling only modestly.

As the business cycle moves to a more depressed state, bearish sentiment intensifies. The trade deficit fails to respond quickly to the new circumstances. Inflation continues its stubbornly strong upward path and the problems with respect to the underlying pressures on costs become more evident.

Similarly, credit demand strengthens as the corporate sector adjusts to changing economic conditions. Naturally, the despondency of the market increases.

There are two examples of this pattern of behaviour in the last decade alone.

Both 1980-81 and 1985-86 bear a resemblance, being periods of economic downturn followed by an unambiguous period of bullishness, in which the steeper the fall in economic activity the stronger the subsequent rally in bond prices.

So when is sentiment likely to improve? We have seen that the initial stages of a growth downturn tend to be accompanied by the most disappointing performance of the market.

Only when investors are convinced the economy is falling sufficiently fast to ensure an improvement in factors such as the balance of payments and underlying inflationary pressures, can they be sure things will improve.

Even then there will be wariness, for several economic variables will still be sending confusing signals. Nevertheless, confidence will return, gradually. But it is

only when the growth rate begins to strengthen that the best performance is seen.

The rallies of 1982, 1987, and indeed 1977, conform very broadly to this pattern of events.

We are now in phase two, the most bearish time when virtually all news is considered adverse.

The question is, how long is it likely to continue? Few doubt that the rate of economic activity has slowed, but as yet there remains the possibility that the downturn will not be sufficient to ensure inflation pressures subside dramatically.

Phase three may, in these circumstances, not be far off, perhaps in the third quarter of this year, but this is a time when the market is still not sure the improvement is taking place.

Many economic variables are still presenting danger signals, underlying costs are rising, inflation remains stubbornly high and credit growth continues apace.

The lag involved in reporting the statistics means the market will not be convinced the corner has been turned until near the end of this year or perhaps early 1991.

It would appear that a long-awaited improvement in sentiment is likely to happen later rather than sooner, probably in the final stages of the calendar year.

The fall in prices thus far has been steep and, by past standards, this would suggest the subsequent rally will be strong. But, as in all cases in the past, no two periods are precisely the same.

There are reasons to believe that a market upturn in 1990-91 will be one of modest intensity. Unlike 1977 and 1982, when the public sector's financial position was improving dramatically, 1991 is likely to be the year when the authorities are obliged to re-enter the gilt-edged market to sell debt.

Add to this the likelihood that doubts about the Government's long-term existence will persist, even though the opinion polls will probably show its popularity improving, and it would be difficult to conclude that those expecting a performance from long-dated gilts on the lines of that seen in 1982 — up 34 per cent on the year — will be disappointed.

Chris Anthony
UBS Phillips & Drew
Research

Big hopes for little companies

By Philip Pangalos

SCOTTISH Amicable Investment Managers, one of Britain's leading fund managers, said it intends to commit the bulk of its new cash to British investments in 1990, and has a particular interest in smaller companies.

Mr Graeme Knox, managing director of SAJM, said: "On fundamental considerations we prefer domestic markets — particularly equities and property, and we expect them to do better than their overseas equivalents in 1990."

Mr Knox added: "We particularly like smaller companies, which, having significantly underperformed the market during the last year, deserve a re-rating. While the going may be rough for some months ahead, with patchy profits performance in evidence, we believe that the worst of the corporate news will soon be



Knox: "right time to buy" over and that smaller companies will prove to be very rewarding. Now is the time to be buying them."

The company, which has more than £8 billion under management, is known for its counter-cyclical investment strategy.

Mr Knox said: "Some of the big companies are seeing quieter corporate activity. Mega-bids have resulted in some

large companies being on undeserved multiples, whereas a lot of smaller companies are at a discount."

But smaller company specialists suggest that the sector may not begin to regain lost ground for some months.

Miss Michèle Delmain, at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said small companies have been underperforming over the last year. "Outperformance will probably not come until the back end of this year, following the recent batch of poor results and profit warnings, which have affected shares across the board."

The key is to look for well-managed companies which will not only survive during the difficult times, but will be able to outperform competitors when the market turns, Miss Delmain said.

Mr Mark Paddon, an analyst on the smaller companies' team at County NatWest, said the perfor-

mance of the County NatWest Smaller Company Index (CSCI) is in line with the main market and the FTA All Share Index.

Mr Paddon said: "We do not expect to see smaller companies outperform until we see an upturn in the UK economy and an improvement in interest rates."

However, smaller companies were seen as a good investment over the longer term — over three to five years.

Mr Paddon emphasized that quality remains of prime importance. He said that there are some good businesses, with good management and strong balance sheets.

However, Mr Paddon said that none of County's 31 small company sectors showed a gain in capital value during April. He said the All Share fell by about 6.4 per cent in April, while the CSCI fell by about 6.9 per cent.

Job figures pose Fed dilemma

US NOTEBOOK

THE stunning employment numbers for April have thrown Federal Reserve policy back into the melting pot on the eve of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting on May 15.

The numbers are a remarkable vindication of the stand taken by Miss Martha Seger, the Fed governor who has been outspoken in opposition to the tightening move that has recently gathered such influential supporters as Mr Manuel Johnson, vice-chairman of the Fed, Mr Wayne Angell, Mr Edward W. Kelley Jr and Mr Robert T. Parry, president of the San Francisco Fed.

The total rise in payroll employment for March and April (including 78,000 census workers hired in April) was only 167,000. This compares with a rise of 734,000 in the previous two months.

To a degree, the decline in employment growth has justified a very rapid rise in the monetary base (banks' reserves plus currency) that has taken place since last November.

Despite the recent reports of higher durable goods orders and more optimistic surveys from the National Association

of Purchasing Managers, factory employment has continued to fall. Between last December and April, it has fallen another 89,000 to 19,400,000 — a level not seen since June 1988.

While the monthly payroll employment numbers fluctuate a lot, a confirmation of the weakening trend in the labour market came from two other sources.

The unemployment rate rose to 5.4 per cent in April, the highest rate since August 1988, and the latest Conference Board survey of consumer confidence published on Thursday last week stated: "Although the nation's unemployment rate has remained unchanged for some months at slightly more than 5 per cent, the number of new jobs in March dropped."

That decline, the Conference Board said, "probably contributed to much of the uneasiness found in the confidence survey." The April survey showed that consumer confidence fell, and also found a drop in plans by consumers to buy new cars and homes.

These survey results tie in

with the weakness in newspaper advertising of "help wanted" ads.

Newspaper advertising volume is exceedingly weak across all types of advertisements — retailing, national and classified. Magazine advertising volume is poor and many magazines will have to fold.

One of the weakest areas of newspaper advertising is classifieds — a grass roots pointer to what is happening. At the most basic level of the nation's business there is widespread weakness, indicated by the sharp decline in the two great areas of classified ads — retail and help wanted. The March and April payroll employment numbers give some official confirmation to this view, which has been in the minority of Wall Street thinking to date.

As US Treasury bonds rallied on Friday, falling well below 9 per cent in yield, the intriguing possibility arose that the worldwide collapse of bonds could be ending. During April and early May there have been indications that the worst could be over for Jan-

nese and German bonds. UK gilts have looked healthier in recent days, and now US bonds have staged a powerful surge from the despair that dominated thinking as recently as a week ago.

Further support for the US Treasury bond market came from the news that average hourly earnings in April rose just three cents, most of which was accounted for by a mandated rise in the minimum wage.

For the dollar, the changed aspect of the US economy will not be so welcome. As 90-day T-Bill yields slid from Thursday's 8.13 per cent to below 8 per cent on Friday, the expectation of lower short-term interest rates was bound to weaken the dollar, which has, in any case, been struggling to hold above 158 yen and above 1.68 marks.

The collapse of gold on February 6 proved to be a good pointer to a changing US environment. This was reinforced by the sharp decline in the crude oil price, which also began in mid-February, since when it has tumbled from \$22 to under \$18.

Maxwell Newton
New York

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Ingres

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[illegible]

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 30. Dealings end May 11. Contango day May 14. Settlement day May 21.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Portfolio
PLATINUM
© Times Newspapers Limited
DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000
Claims required for +52 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	Buend (as)	Peper, Print, Adv.	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	SD-Scot	Electronics	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Dawson	Textiles	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Gleeson (M)	Building, Roads	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Delta	Electronics	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Smith & Nephew	Drugs, Stores	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Bliss (U)	Industrial A-D	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Surridge (as)	Drugs, Stores	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Capita	Industrial A-D	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Chryslor	Property	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Foster (John)	Textiles	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Farnell (E)	Industrial E-K	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Euromet Ltd	Transport	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Silencing	Industrial S-Z	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Alfred Long	Property	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Maybom	Industrial L-R	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Turner	Building, Roads	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	TV Group	Industrial S-Z	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Braden Hill	Industrial A-D	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Mersey Docks	Transport	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Crysalis	Electronics	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Genetec	Industrial E-K	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	GKN (as)	Industrial E-K	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Bailey (Ben) Const	Building, Roads	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Brumfield	Industrial A-D	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	RMC (as)	Building, Roads	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Pico	Electronics	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Howden	Industrial E-K	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	Burton (as)	Drugs, Stores	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Sagebrush	Building, Roads	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	South Eastern (as)	Property	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Shibol	Industrial S-Z	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Sandray (as)	Industrial E-K	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	ICC Group (as)	Industrial E-K	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	IMI (as)	Industrial E-K	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
36	De La Rue	Industrial A-D	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
37	Mum Charlotte	Food, Canned	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
38	TV AM	Leisure	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
39	Black Ltd	Drugs, Stores	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	AB Elect	Electronics	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
41	Snurrem	Electronics	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
42	Uppar (as)	Oil, Gas	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
43	WPP	Peper, Print, Adv.	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
44	Proudford Alexander	Industrial L-R	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

There were no valid claims for Saturday's £4,000 weekly Portfolio Platinum prize. The money will be added to Saturday's prize, making £8,000 in total.

BRITISH FUNDS

Start date	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
12/01/89	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00

Start date	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
12/01/89	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00

Start date	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
12/01/89	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00

Start date	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
12/01/89	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00

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12/01/89	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00

Start date	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
12/01/89	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00

Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
102.0m Current Ltd	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00

Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
102.0m Current Ltd	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00

Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
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Company	Price	Div	Yield
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Blue chips lead an early fall in Dow

Mr Toranobu Sugai, senior

● Sydney — The All-Ordinaries index rose 16.8 points to 1,478.0. (Reuters)

[illegible]

Natural break: Bob Clarke, who takes over at UPR

The group was bound to be seen as vulnerable to takeover

A new era for UB as Clarke emerges from the shadows

"There is everything to play for," he said.

The first priority has been to build up business in continental Europe. UB has not been able to do that in one leap. It was frustrated by domestic competition constraints from taking the unexpected opportunity of buying the European operations

He will start by bringing 80 top UB executives from round the world to a meeting in a month's time at which they will learn that, though Sir Hector has retired, vision remains at UB.

Graham Searjeant

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indefinite seamen's Spain after saving Cadiz from

Brandon looks for the right tools to carve a niche in hire business

Another fundamental difference between Brandon Hire and Venture Plant is that Brandon does not have any in-

A forecast dividend of 4.4p means the shares will yield 9.2 per cent.

Schroder's team tips two

Operating margins rose from 5.8 to 10.2 per cent and the Schroders team forecasts earnings per share of 30.2p for 1990 and pre-tax profits of £2.68 million. It concludes that "the high level of recurring revenues and progressive acceptance of the new product offerings will ensure revenues will grow by 12 per cent in 1990 despite dull economic conditions".

Castle Communications' latest interim results showed pre-tax profits up 53 per cent. It also unveiled a two-for-one underwritten rights issue at 400p. Schroder forecast earnings per share in the year to June up by 20 per cent to 34.3p. "In 1991 this progress will be maintained and the company will realize the full benefits of the rights issue. We are therefore forecasting that pre-tax margins will widen slightly, resulting in an increase of 45 per cent in pre-tax profits to £4.5 million."

Carol Leonard

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

THIRD MARKET

Coin/Bar £ Company	Price per Pound	Ch or Pr	Gross per ounce	De 100 %
805.000 ASB Bars	35	-10	1.3	4.8
780.000 American	35	..	..	1
1,067,000 Gold	200	..	..	..
789,000 Aus. Permies	35	..	..	..
3,645,000 Cde In	200	..	..	..
1,130,000 Chinese	30	..	1.0	0.4
3,668,000 Canadian	11 1/4	-3 1/2	..	..
1,776,000 Chinese Alt	20	..	..	..
845,000 Chinese Int	12	..	..	..
4,427,000 Cleveland	21 1/2	..	..	..
2,126,000 Greek	10	-5	..	..
3,617,000 Mexican	40	..	..	..
1,000,000 Mexican	35	..	..	..
2,625,000 Nigerian	10	-1	1.3	1.4
3,532,000 Honduran	7 1/4	..	..	..
1,000,000 Indian	10	-1	..	..
580,000 Cde (PE)	10	+1/2	..	..
8,350,000 Cde	10	..	8.7	5.8
11.5oz Landing Lon	19	..	3.3	17.4
4,498,000 Interest	80	-4	..	..
7,150,000 Interest	80	..	..	..
1,833,000 UPL	48	..	..	..
9,450,000 U.S. Ghass	177	..	8.7	3.0
11.4oz Silver Magic Go	88	-8	..	..

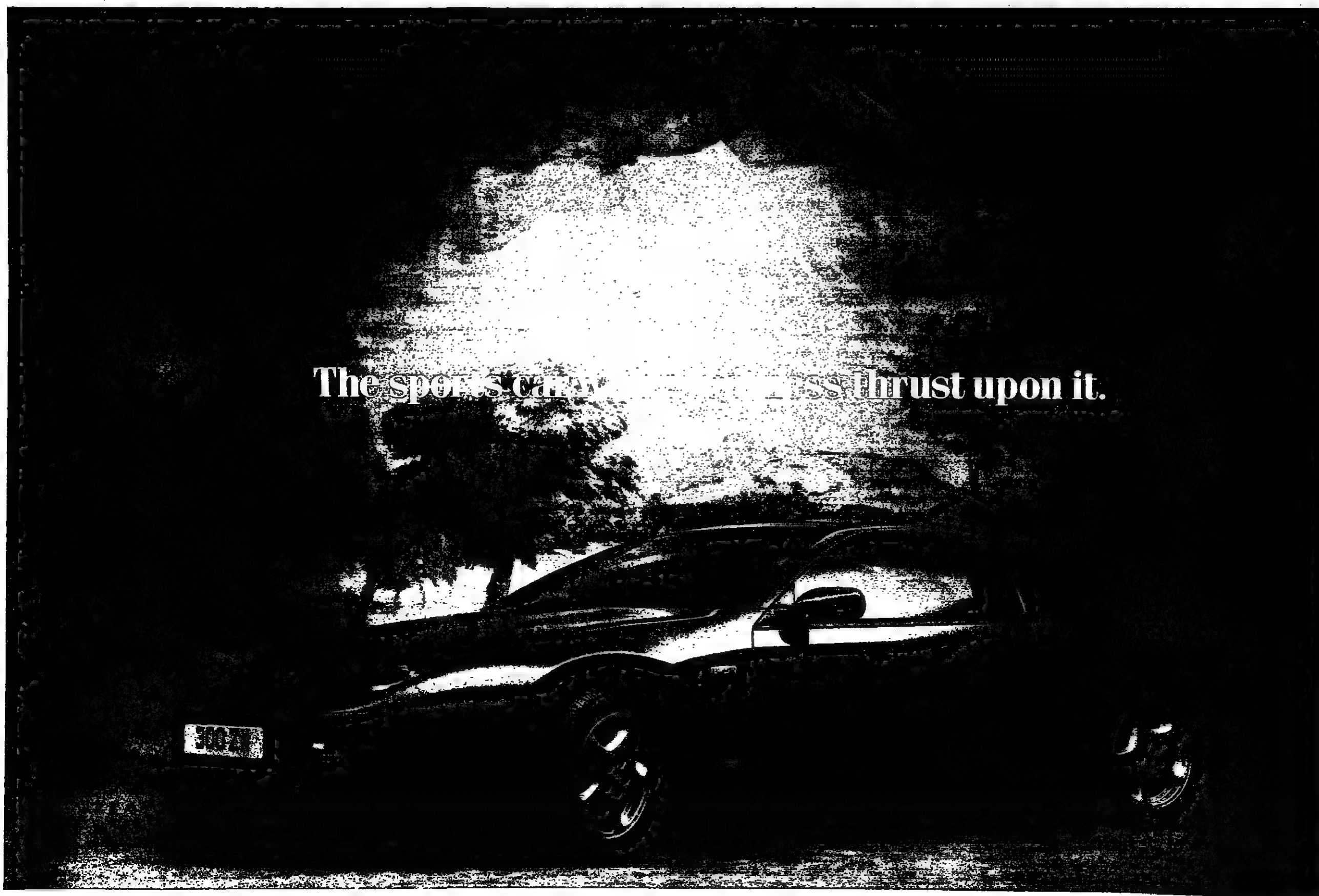
GOLD

BULLION:		Per ounce
Open: \$371.25-371.75		Close: \$371.00-371.50

COINS: Per coin (Ex VAT)
Bidding: \$379.00-384.00 (€229.25-231.25)

American Eagle: \$379.00-384.00 (\$228.25-231.25)
 New Sovereigns: \$87.25-89.25 (\$52.50-53.50)
 Old Sovereigns: \$87.25-89.25 (\$52.50-53.50)
 Platinum: \$484.75 (\$292.00)

Server: 93.05-5.07 (23.040-3.065)



The sports came, and the medals thrust upon it

Showered with praise, heaped with plaudits,
the motoring press welcome the new 300ZX...
"The posing power of an Italian exotic..."
(Autocar & Motor)

A beautifully proportioned, breathtaking design
blending controlled aggression with purity of line.

The 3 litre, 24 valve, twin turbo engine rockets the 300ZX from 0 to 60 in just 5.7 seconds and on to a governed top speed of 155 mph* while

The computer controlled SUPER HICAS 4 wheel steering ensures the car responds instantaneously to your every touch.

"Style and furnishings of the interior are superb. . . ." (Fast Lane)

The scooped-out cockpit incorporates a wealth

of standard equipment including air conditioning, sound system with CD player, electric windows, cruise control, removable T-bar roof and optional leather upholstery.

"Nissan has just created a whole new culture...." (World Sports Cars)

The 300ZX, a unique marriage of distinctive styling, dynamic performance, and state-of-the-art technology. For once the motoring press are united in their praise . . . when it comes to producing a sports car in the classic tradition, Nissan know how.

 **NISSAN**
know how.
NISSAN U.K. LIMITED, WORTHING, SUSSEX

THE ROYAL MAIL

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Poised for a first-class assault on Europe

The Royal Mail is answering its critics by providing better service, Anthony Cox reports, as part of its plan to develop new markets

The penny black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp, is 150 years old this month. In celebration — and with a determination to confound its critics — the Royal Mail has announced a "significant improvement" in the performance of first-class and second-class post during the past year.

This has not completely silenced the critics, but then, as Bill Cockburn, the Royal Mail's managing director, admits: "There has been some legitimate criticism in some parts of the country, but we are attending to it. You do not hear anything about the great majority of letters that get through on time."

Huge investments are being made in transport, automation, computerized systems and people to take the Royal Mail into the 21st century, with a confident assault on Europe as a whole in 1992 along the way.

"Over the next five years, we are going to invest more than £1,100 million to take the strain of future growth," says Mr Cockburn — who doubles up as a Territorial Army colonel in charge of military postal and courier services.

There has been an investment in the art of listening. According to Mr Cockburn, the Royal Mail has tried to change its "culture" from an operationally led take-it-or-leave-it style to one where we say to the customer, "What do you want?" and the operator is servant to the market, not the

other way around." He says: "It is not for us to inflict change, but it is for us to engage in a dialogue with our customers to determine their true needs, and then to look at what we are doing and see if there is scope for change. This is something to be done with the greatest sensitivity."

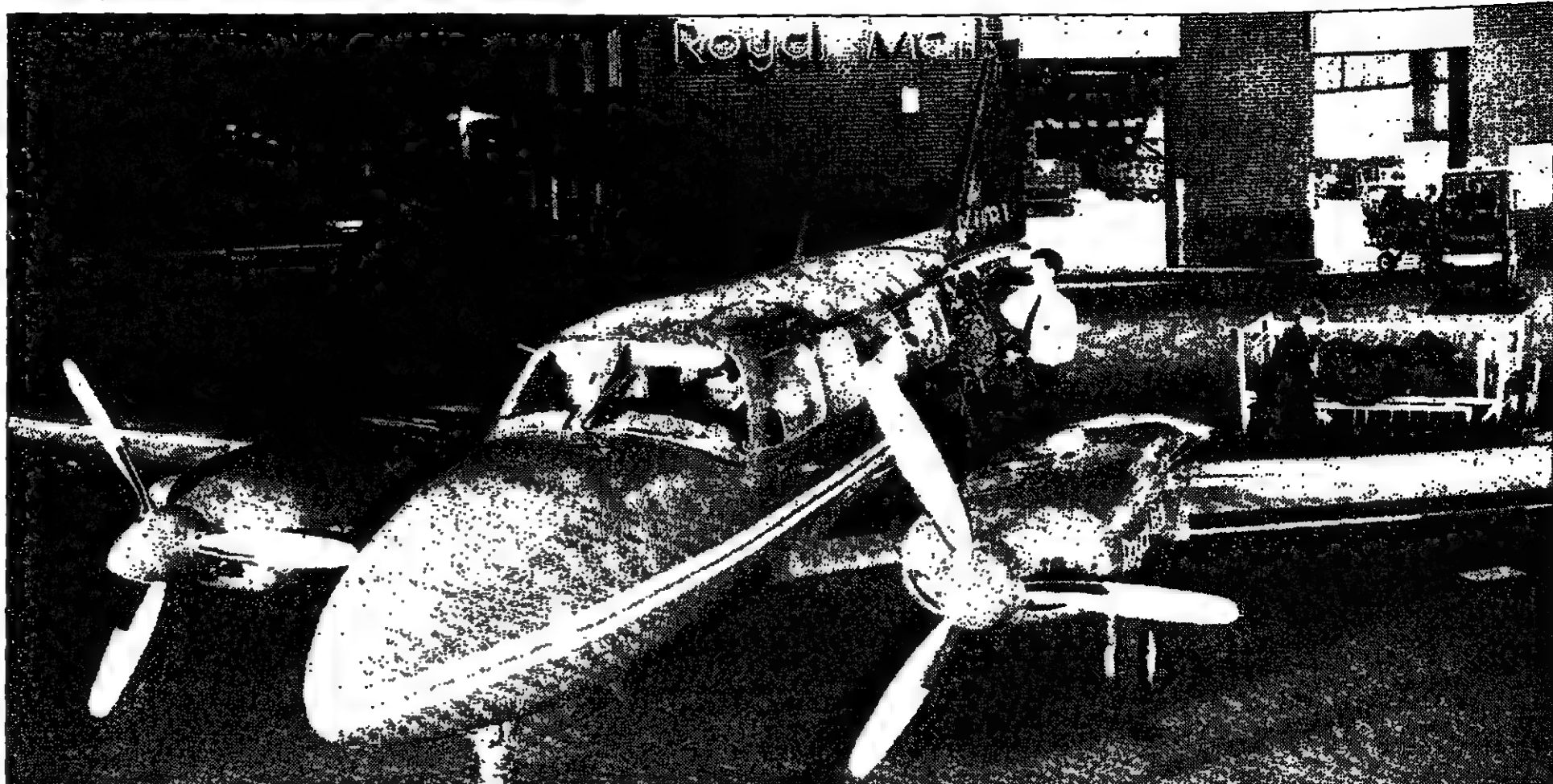
The Royal Mail may sometimes like to present itself as a part of the traditional British way of life. "We are part of the fabric of society," Mr Cockburn says.

The truth is somewhat different. The Royal Mail is a large, profitable business employing 180,000 people and delivering 54 million letters a day to 24 million addresses.

It is, of course, run like a business. "We do not get a penny of subsidy. Our formula works," says Mr Cockburn, whose letters operation made a profit of £66.6 million in 1988-89, despite a national postal strike.

The Royal Mail is market-led, optimistic about its future, proud of its growth rates and ready to take on the challenge of direct competition from private enterprise. Yet it remains aware of its social responsibilities, pointing out that no one, not even a privatizing government, has been able to find an alternative to the Royal Mail that would continue to meet the total postal needs of the national community.

To send a letter from any part of the UK to any other at a standard price, regardless of distance, is the cornerstone of the Post Office's traditional



The speediest and the most leisurely: four million letters are flown every night from two airports. Meanwhile, the postman has to row across to St Michael's Mount, Cornwall

service. No newcomer to the postal scene could provide such a service. Nevertheless, there are highly profitable sectors of the mail business that private enterprise would like to see hived off.

Letter delivery is an expensive service, but the Royal Mail claims that in relative terms it is four times cheaper to buy a stamp today than in the last century when Rowland Hill introduced the uniform penny post.

It is a service that stays by

popular demand, and is kept in place by a unified Royal Mail, which can use a profitable Peter to pay a poor Paul.

The Royal Mail is bullish about its prospects, having made a big investment in marketing to generate new business. Mr Cockburn says: "We estimate that, huge as we are, we have only about a 15 per cent share of the communications market, which is the fastest-growing part of the economy." There is undoubtedly more to come.

The corresponding urge

While most of the country sleeps, thousands of Royal Mail staff work throughout the night processing the 54 million letters that go to 24 million addresses nationwide every day (Anthony Cox writes).

Every letter has to make an individual journey from post-box to door.

The Royal Mail is handling mail volumes of Himalayan proportions. In Victorian times, the postal service handled 76 million letters a year. Today, it shifts more letters in a day at Christmas than in the whole of 1840," says Bill Cockburn, managing director of the Royal Mail.

"However, the challenge does not end there. People are writing more letters than ever before, and that trend is going to continue. By the year 2000, the Royal Mail predicts it will be handling 100 million letters a day, so we must use every modern idea to keep pace with what our customers need."

When Rowland Hill introduced the penny post, the mail coach was the most modern 'mail transport system'. Hill, the man credited with developing the idea of a uniform post, argued that cheaper costs and improved transport would lift the Post Office's business. Today, the Royal Mail uses transport ranging from 'snopeds' to articulated vehicles. It has one of the largest vehicle fleets in the world — 35,000 — and uses more than 4,000 trains every day.

Every day 54 million letters are handled in Britain. In 10 years that figure is likely to double

In remote areas, mail may arrive by motorboat, helicopter or postbus — a network of 183 minibus services timetabled to carry passengers with the mail on some of Britain's most scenic and isolated routes.

The Royal Mail is developing a new network of direct road links between key postal districts to speed up mail deliveries. "When complete, the new network will total more than 700 'fast road links'," says Peter Howarth, Royal Mail operations director. "They will enable mail to reach sorting offices by midnight, three hours earlier than before. This will mean millions more letters hitting door-mats the next day."

The new road links avoid rush-hour delays and travel direct to destinations. Rail services, however, will continue to play a key part in the network, particularly for transporting mail over longer distances. About 500 provincial network links have already been introduced, and nearly 200 short-distance links are being introduced in and around London.

Every year, the Royal Mail's well-developed air network carries more than a billion first-class letters to distant parts of the UK. About 30

chartered aircraft fly mail around Britain every night, ensuring that people living in the more remote areas of the country receive their letters promptly.

Domestic night air mail is set to rise by up to 40 million letters a year, and extra links are being introduced to cope with this extension of the service. The opening of postal "hubs" at Speke airport, in Liverpool, in 1979 and at Derby's East Midlands airport in 1982 were important steps in co-ordinating the national delivery system.

In opening the East Midlands "hub", conveniently located at the centre of the country, the Royal Mail took the opportunity to set up its first integrated service for rail, road and air links. This teamed the airport operation with Travelling Post Offices — sorting offices pulled by trains — at nearby Derby station and a fleet of dedicated mail vans.

The Royal Mail operation at the East Midlands airport begins at 10.30pm, when the first of 13 flights from Scotland, Belfast, East Anglia, the south-west and the south-east start arriving. The aircraft are emptied and quickly reloaded, most of them flying out again

within the hour. Timing is crucial. A similar operation takes place at Speke, where the main links are with road transport.

"Improving reliability is our number one priority. The new road and air links are just part of a £1.2 million investment to boost service," Mr Howarth says.

The Royal Mail is also investing money in new computer systems and in special pay supplements to help to improve recruitment.

Computers are now being used to find the fastest way to deliver the mail. The Computer Assisted Delivery revision program reduces the time it takes to map out the quickest and most effective routes for individual postal rounds. It complements the recently completed DARRT program, which sets out routes for the nation's mail.

"These two systems will help speed the delivery of mail, revolutionizing the way the Royal Mail plans how letters are handled around the country, right down to the postmen and postwomen on the street," Mr Cockburn says.

"The Royal Mail delivers to every address in Britain, something not possible in 1840 when remote areas of the country did not get a postal service.

"Internationally, the Royal Mail is virtually alone in the world with a postal service that delivers all the way to the customer's individual letter-box, whether in a high-rise flat or a remote farm cottage."

Despot with stamp of genius

AS is the case with so many heroes, Rowland Hill's reputation as the only true benefactor of the penny post is somewhat overblown.

He was, in truth, really no more than an ambitious pamphleteer who swam with an already rising tide.

Hill's overbearing manner in his subsequent position as Secretary of the Post Office ensured that he was one of the less popular holders of that office.

In the Britain of the 1830s, reform was in the air. Everybody was at it, and alongside the 'movement' for parliamentary reform, which had its origins in the great Reform Bill of 1832, there was an equally strong current for fiscal reform.

By the time Hill's seminal pamphlet on uniform postage appeared in 1837, a parliamentary commission was already at work studying an overhaul of the mails, and the Post Office had received petitions containing a total of more than 200,000 signatures, from the Lord Mayor of London to chambers of commerce throughout the land, demanding the very things that Hill proposed.

Still, any reform needs a figurehead, a champion who will see it through.

The curious thing is that, in many ways, Hill's campaign

was seriously flawed. The innovation for which he is best remembered — the penny black pre-paid uniform postage rate — was almost an afterthought.

The main plank of his argument was to reduce postal tariffs. In the belief that a cheaper service would stimu-

late business and quickly increase Post Office revenues, he was to have a large extent, wrong. Postal business did indeed grow, but not nearly as quickly as he had envisaged. He was convinced that, despite much cheaper mails, the huge saving in labour costs by having people on their stamps themselves at a standard charge would ensure that revenue did not fall. He later revised his estimates, saying it would take only five years to recover from any initial losses.

In the first year of the penny post, the Post Office's revenue fell by 69 per cent, and it was not until 1863 that it recovered to its 1839 level. Hill, meanwhile, tried to blame others. The railways were charging too much for carrying the mails, he claimed, and the Post Office itself was inefficient and not paying enough attention to making economies and improvements in the service. There was a strong old guard in the Post Office, which was happy to call the Hill reforms "preposterous, wild, visionary, absurd, clumsy and impracticable," Hill retorted: "It is the intention of the Post Office to make the measure fail apparently, in a financial point of view at least, by making the increase of expenses keep pace with that of letters." Although Hill is credited with being the man who introduced a penny post to every address in the country, that was far from so.

In his original proposals he spoke disparagingly of "inferior addresses", meaning remote country areas which, he

believed, should pay extra to have their mail delivered. The spread of a universal mail service was in fact gradual.

By 1864, more than 94 per cent of all letters posted were delivered to the houses to which they were addressed, but it was not until 1897, as part of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee celebrations, that delivery to every house in the kingdom, no matter how remote, was guaranteed.

A good idea will always out. The basic idea of a cheap flat-rate postal service was too good to fade away, and eventually the rest of the world began to take notice.

Brazil in 1843 was the first country to follow Britain's example. Within 40 years, 150 countries had adopted the British system.

Hill, however, became an increasingly disorientated, obsessive and unpopular postal administrator.

Anthony Trollope, father of the pillar box, said of him: "I was always an anti-Hillite, believing him to be entirely unfit to manage men or to arrange labour."

Hill's brother once remarked: "When you go to heaven, I foresee that you will stop at the gate to inquire of St Peter how many deliveries they have per day."

Alan Hamilton



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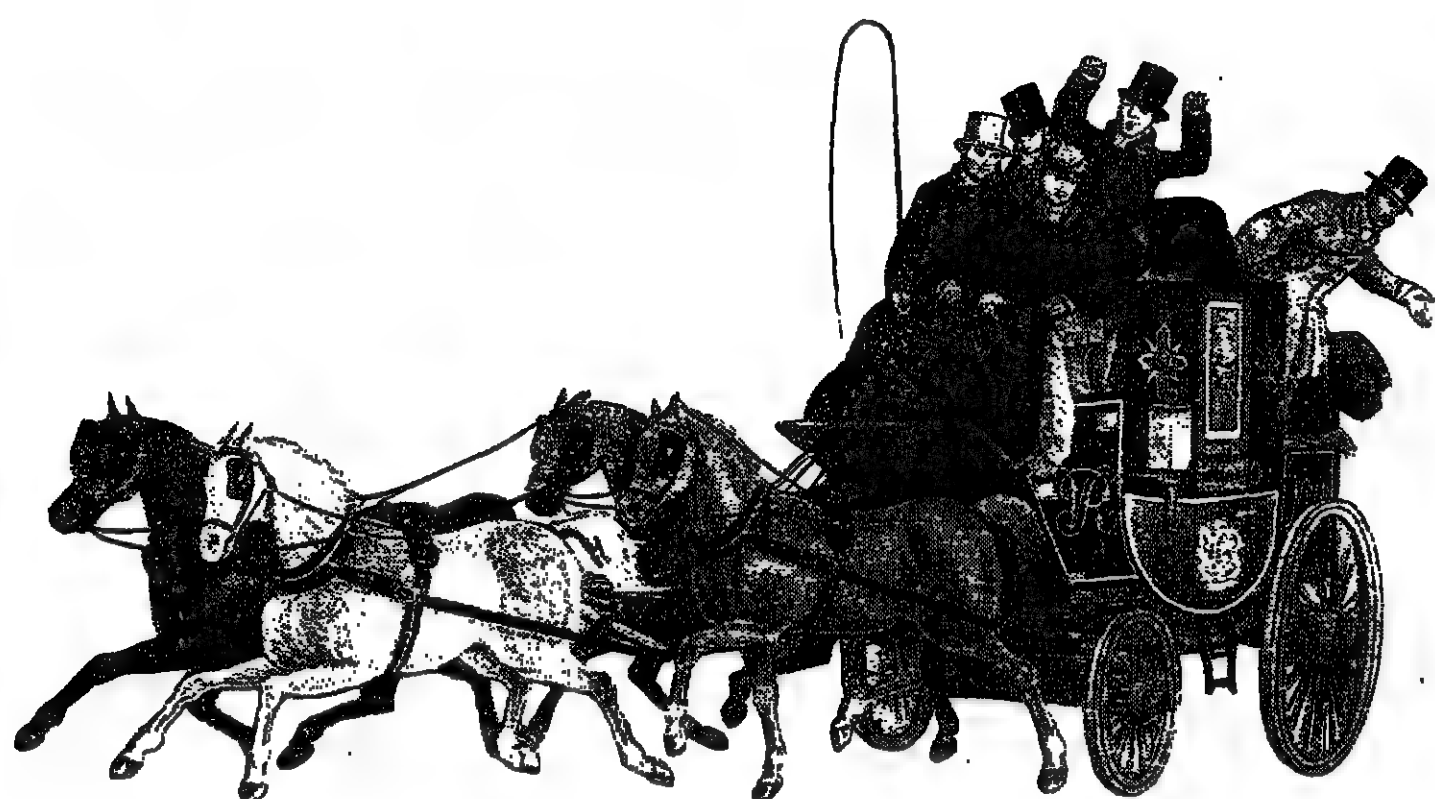
Expiry Date

Please send me details of other stamp items you offer. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery of your order. The prices, which include VAT at the current rate, are subject to any change in the rate of the stamp; themselves. All orders are subject to availability.

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taken into account). The first class stamp is one of the cheapest in Europe.

He'd see a vast network of some 20,000 post offices around the country

Since 1840, the Penny Black has stood as the proud symbol for all that is good in a postal service.

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Today, however, we take that service for granted.

And Sir Rowland Hill's invention – the pre-paid adhesive label – has been adopted by every nation on earth.

Would Sir Rowland have approved of our progress over the years?

Today, he'd see a UK postal system handling record numbers of letters – more in one busy day than in the whole of 1840.

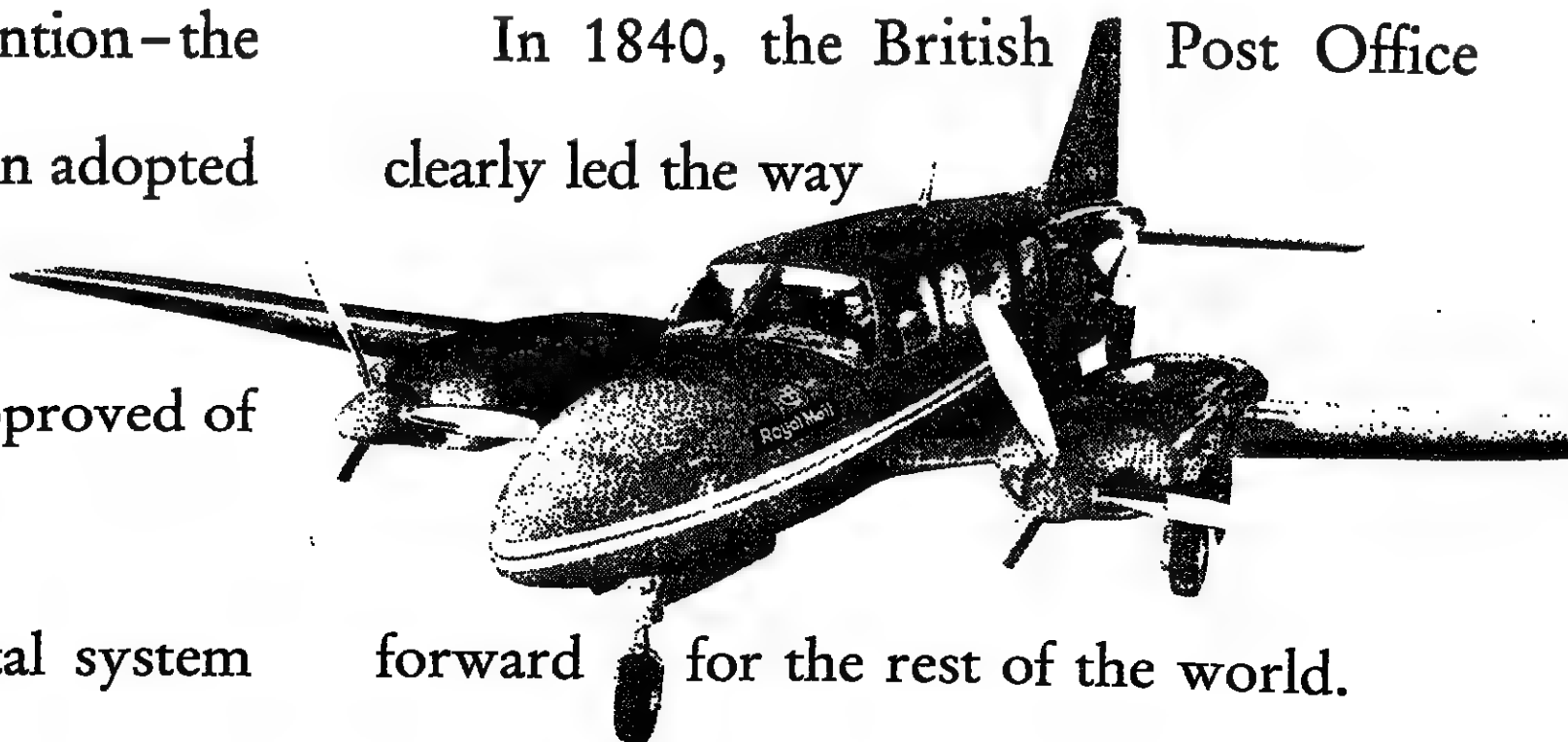
He'd see a stamp that's fallen in cost by 75% since 1840 (when wage changes are

(more per head of population than almost anywhere in Europe).

He'd see the British Post Office virtually alone in the world to be self-financing and profitable.

And he'd see technology put to such good use that other postal administrations clamour to copy it and buy it.

In 1840, the British Post Office clearly led the way



forward for the rest of the world.

Today, 150 years later, that's still true.

ROYAL
MAIL
1840-1990



FIRST
IN THE
WORLD

The Post Office

Adhering to the Rowland Hill principle

Reports of dramatic changes in the postal service are greatly exaggerated, according to Bill Cockburn, managing director of the Royal Mail. He claims that discussions are under way that could lead to the merging of first-class and second-class mail, the introduction of a business users' "premium" service and an end to early-morning residential deliveries.

"What we are celebrating this year — the 150th anniversary of the Rowland Hill principle of the uniform price and the uniform service — is valued throughout the country. Nobody is suggesting we move even an inch away from that," Mr Cockburn says.

"Clearly, however, as a large organization, which has grown by more than 40 per cent in a decade — and, looking forward, we could have growth of the same magnitude — we have to constantly look at how we are organized, our service structure and how we staff the business."

This is becoming particularly important to the Post Office, the country's second largest employer, in the face of the approaching demographic trough.

"We have to ask, 'What does the customer need as he enters the 1990s?' Those needs could be different from other options. I think we are always looking at other options. The time has come to start discussing more openly with our customers what sort of postal service they need."

According to Mr Cockburn, the Royal Mail has sought to change from a "take-it-or-leave-it" operation to one which is market-focused, where we say to the customer, 'What do you want?', and the operator is servant to the market, not the other way round."

But what the customer wants may be difficult or impossible to deliver. The delivery structure is under serious review. Most of the Royal Mail's 70,000-80,000 delivery staff have to start work at an early hour, and people are becoming increasingly resistant to working unsocial hours.

"If our customers signal to us that it is not so important to them to have their mail early — in other words, if it could start later and be



The Royal Mail remains committed to its founding philosophy of 'uniform price and uniform service'. However, staff demands and market realities are forcing it to re-evaluate many services, Bill Cockburn (left) tells Anthony Cox

mail service, particularly in areas where there is a more stable workforce. The Royal Mail's answer to this problem has been to invest more money in the problem areas, provoking confrontation with the unions.

"We have been making a lot of positive investments, particularly by putting pay supplements into London and the south-east."

"This is what the postal strike was all about. The unions found it difficult to accept differentials, but we have invested £50 million in payments focused on blackspot areas."

"We are beginning to see a reduction in staff turnover and a consequent improvement in service, in some areas very markedly."

"Taking performance as a whole, we agreed with our users' council that we would target for the biggest-ever improvement in service for a single year in 1989, and we actually beat our target."

That's part of an ongoing drive, backed up by big investments in

transport, air services, automation and people. There have been some legitimate criticisms in some parts of the country, but we are addressing them. Of course, you never hear anything about the vast majority of letters that get through on time," Mr Cockburn says.

In volume terms, Royal Mail deliveries are 87 per cent business and 13 per cent personal. However, while the bulk of revenue comes from business and official mail, only 500,000 of the country's 24 million addresses belong to the business community, so most of the costs of delivery are incurred in servicing private addresses.

Mr Cockburn is confident that "we will always have postmen and postwomen. Although we are investing in the latest technology to reduce the labour intensity of mail-processing, the vast army of delivery postmen and postwomen is the most valuable part of our service."

The Royal Mail has a statutory monopoly covering addressed

mail priced below £1. "There is a great illusion about the monopoly. We do not have a monopoly of communication, and we estimate that, huge as we are, we only have about a 15 per cent share of the communications market," Mr Cockburn says, raising the issue of privatization.

"Our position is that the monopoly is genuinely a privilege, not a right. We are confident that we could be successful in a competitive environment. But what the Government has to consider is what the end of the monopoly would mean to the community."

"It would not make any sense to allow people to just come in and cream off the most profitable routes. Any fool could make a lot of money by being selective. It is significant that this Government is clearly very keen to see increased competition, but it has not yet found a model which would protect the Rowland Hill principle."

To put competition into perspective, Mr Cockburn says that the Royal Mail handles the same amount of mail in one day at Christmas as all the private courier companies together handle in a year.

"The likes of TNT, which might like to have entry into the juicy small bits, could not actually provide benefit to the community as a whole."

"It is not our job to stop competition, but it is the Government's job to get the framework right as a whole," Mr Cockburn says.

The arrival of the single European market is seen as a great opportunity for the Royal Mail. "We think there is great potential

mailing centres. Britain as the mailing centre for Europe — that's what we see post-1992," he says.

The Royal Mail is bullish about its prospects. "Direct mail marketing is one interesting and exciting prospect. I believe that the industry is only in the foothills of development here. The number of direct mail pieces per head of population is about 26 a year. In America the figure is 10 times greater, and in Europe it is double the UK average."

"In the 1960s people were predicting that this business would go into decline and we would lose out to telecommunications and other more glamorous means of communication — and that did in fact happen for a period. We did not grow in the Seventies."

"Since the beginning of the 1980s, when we pursued vigorous productivity improvements and lowered our prices in real terms, our customers have returned to us. My growth last year was 9 per cent. Over the next five years we are going to invest more than £1.1 billion to take the strain of future growth."

"The advance of the fax, for example, will clearly erode traditional markets, but I think that other markets will arise. Take all the privatization issues — they have proven a tremendous boost for Royal Mail, with all those extra items to handle. Wonderful. We love it! And people should not forget that we do not get a penny of subsidy. Our formula works."

'We do not get one penny of subsidy. Our formula works'

for us with 1992. Our prices are the lowest in Europe, our business is the most successful commercially, and the service we give is in the top rank of European performance."

"We envisage competition with our European counterparts, not in the sense that we would have pillar boxes in West Germany, but that a lot of businesses will have a choice as to where they locate their

Letters destined underground

Brian Quinn, head of Mail Rail, the Post Office's private underground railway, has a curious memento of one of his predecessors (*Malcolm Brown writes*). A glass display case on his office wall holds a pair of white silk gloves, presented to the first head of the underground system in January 1929 by his staff.

Mr Quinn says the railway opened for business in 1927, but it was plagued by technical hitches. It was not until January 1929 that the system ran through a full 24 hours without a single delay.

The significance of the white silk, apparently, was that once the problems had been solved the head man no longer needed to get up to his elbows in grease. "The boss could stay away and not get dirty," Mr Quinn says.

After the initial problems the system seems to have run like a dream. Mr Quinn says downtime is tiny. The underground railway, the only one of its type in the world, shunts 50,000 bags of mail a day between Paddington and Whitechapel, serving the two mainline stations of Paddington and Liverpool Street and six large sorting offices.

The idea for an underground system for mail goes back to well before the First World War. A committee set up by the Postmaster-General in 1909 to advise on the moving of mails by pneumatic tubes or electric railway came out in favour of the latter in 1911, and tunnelling



Down below: Brian Quinn, at Mount Pleasant, heads the Post Office underground railway system

started three years later. It continued throughout the war until labour and materials problems finally brought the project to a halt in 1917. During the war the tunnels were used by the Tate Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery as a safe haven for their art treasures.

The system was finally completed and opened for service in 1927, and has been in use ever since. The tiny trains are driven by remote control and are overseen from an operations centre at the Mount Pleasant sorting office, near Holborn. They run at speeds of up to 40mph, three times the average speed of road traffic in

central London. Every one of the 27ft-long cars in the system can carry up to 60 bags of mail or 24 bags of parcels.

Trains run at a rate of 12 every hour in each direction, their number increasing until a train runs every four minutes at peak periods. At the busiest times, the Post Office is able to get a train from Liverpool Street to Paddington — a vital mail transport link — in just 13 minutes.

Mail Rail must be one of the most intensively used underground railways in the world. It operates 22 hours a day, the other two hours being used for maintenance work.

The whole system is run with only 260 staff, including engineers in the maintenance depot, a splendid old engineering workshop in the middle of Mount Pleasant. The system appears to be highly efficient, but Mr Quinn admits there have been occasional problems.

One of the worst occurred when a large sack of mail blocked a chute at the King Edward Building. Within 20 minutes, as more and more bags were sent down the chute, the blockage turned into a gigantic jam.

In the end, the fire brigade had to be brought in to dislodge many tons of bags.

Postal clickety-clack

The sorters who staff the Post Office's Travelling Post Offices (TPOs), the 35 mobile sorting offices that run on overnight trains, are a hardy lot. They have to be (*Malcolm Brown writes*). Not only do they work nights under often adverse conditions and spend large parts of every week away from their families, but, just occasionally, they also have to cope with emergencies.

One of the oddest happened a few years ago just outside Reading when, according to Alex Obradovic, head of Travelling Post Offices, a package broke open and out popped a minor plague of locusts. It rather upset the staff, by all accounts. "It didn't do the locusts much good either," Mr Obradovic says.

More than half of all mail still travels by train. Every day 3,000 trains are used. There are about 300 "specials" — all-mail trains that carry most of the overnight first-class mail — and 35 of these are TPOs.

The TPOs go back more than 150 years to 1838, when the Post Office tried an experiment with a converted horse-box. The box was pressed into service as a rudimentary sorting office on the Birmingham-to-Warrington section of the Grand Junction Railway. The idea caught on, and by mid-century a small network had been built up.

The heyday of the TPO was undoubtedly the 1930s. The ser-



People of the night: sorters at work on a Travelling Post Office

vice was immortalized then by John Grierson's classic documentary film, *Night Mail*, the sound-track of which was a now famous W.H. Auden poem, whose rhythms evoke the clickety-clack of the old steam train on its northward journey to Aberdeen.

This is the night mail crossing the border. Bringing the cheque and the postal order.

Letters for the rich, letters for the poor. The shop at the corner and the girl next door.

Between them, the TPOs handle about 425 million first-class letters and packets a year. All are hand-

sorted. They run along the main routes, but the mail sorted is normally from one small town and is destined for another. Mail from large centres is rarely sorted. It is largely a service for "small-town Britain", Mr Obradovic says.

He says the sorters who make up most of the 650 TPO staff are resilient types and long stayers — sometimes giving that section service for up to 30 years.

For the last-minute customers, first-class letters still can be posted on all TPOs, which have post-boxes on the exterior of the coaches. Some of the big railway stations still have special late-posting boxes on the platforms.

The simple coding system provides the Post Office with the ideal means of coping with future demands on its service, Malcolm Brown writes

Secrets of the mysterious post-code revealed

MANY people have no idea what the post-code system is about. They believe it is another piece of bureaucratic nonsense dreamt up by the Post Office to make a customer's life more difficult.

In fact, the post-code is a remarkably sophisticated "coding device". It tells the Post Office for which town, street and segment of the street a letter is destined. Add the number of the house and mail code, in theory, be delivered to its destination without normal addressing. Police, for example, use house number plus post-code to security stamp bicycles — the resulting code number provides an accurate identification tag.

The post-code was devised so that the Post Office could machine-sort mail.

In the simplest and most common system, a human operator reads the written post-code as the letter passes on a moving conveyor and types it into his coding keyboard. That translates the post-code into a sequence of blue phosphor dots, which can then be machine-read as the letter passes a sophisticated light detector. The

dot code is unscrambled and the letter sent off to the appropriate sorting box.

In old-fashioned sorting, the address on an envelope might be read up to half a dozen times by human sorters before the letter reached its destination. Post-coding allows machines to be used in all intermediate stages.

Now the whole process has been taken a step further. The operators who key in the post-code manually are being replaced by optical scanners that use machine-vision techniques to read the written post-code on the envelope.

The OCR (optical character recognition) machines are speeding up operations enormously. A manual operator can key in 2,000 post-codes an hour. OCR machines can process 35,000. The Post Office has 19 OCR machines in operation, and expects to have another 29 working within the next two years.

Alex Beardmore, the engineer-

in-chief who heads the Post Office's research centre in Swindon, Wiltshire, says the system works very well with the type of material produced by bulk mailers. "The big mailing houses, such as *Reader's Digest*, Access and Visa, produce vast quantities of nicely typed mail that can go straight on to our optical character reading machine to be sorted," he says.

Meanwhile, Mr Beardmore's scientists and engineers are trying to upgrade the system. One of the ultimate aims, Mr Beardmore says, is to get machines to read hand-written mail.

There is an enormous difference between asking a machine to recognize characters machine-printed by a typewriter, addressograph machine or some other

mechanical device, and asking it to recognize the free-flowing and very individualistic characters that every one of us produces in his or her own handwriting.

But some advances may still be possible, particularly if the public can be persuaded to hand-print the post-code. The difficulties of machine-reading hand-written or even hand-printed characters are

many and various. At the simplest level, although a machine-printed character will normally be of a fairly standard size, the characters that humans put on the page may vary enormously from the very small to the very large.

The OCR has to "normalize" the size of the characters before it can even begin to search its memory for matching patterns.

"There are ways forward," Mr Beardmore says. "The first step will almost certainly be to get boxes printed that constrain the size of the characters and separate them physically."

People are already used to doing this sort of thing on computer forms, so it should be possible to adapt the idea for envelopes, though the Post Office would first have to persuade envelope-makers of the merits of the system.

He says Post Office technology has very fine constraints within which to work. One of the oddest but most important factors en-

gineers and scientists developing new technology must consider is that Post Office equipment must be gentle.

"If you are in a manufacturing process and something goes wrong with the machinery, then, if, say, you are cartoning up sugar, you may waste a few wrappers, you may waste a bit of sugar," Mr Beardmore says. "But you just throw those away and start again. If any of our machinery goes wrong in that way, then you are in danger of destroying somebody's mail. That is irreparable. So it has got to be highly reliable and gentle in its handling capabilities."

Technology is becoming more important for Post Office operations, Mr Beardmore says. The volume of mail is growing at 6 or 7 per cent a year.

"At the rate we are going we shall be handling something like 80 million letters a day by the end of the century. If we go on at that rate of growth we shall need something like another 100,000 postmen on the streets. The country is going to be rather stretched to provide that sort of manpower."



It's all happening: mail here is being sorted manually. Soon, most letters will be machine-sorted



CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENNY BLACK FROM SP TYRES UK LTD

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENNY BLACK FROM SP TYRES UK LTD

The popular pastime that sticks

Stamp collecting, the world's most widespread hobby, is well served by yearly British specials

Special issues of British stamps were rare before the 1960s. The first appeared in 1924, for the British Empire Exhibition, followed by others for the 1948 Olympic Games, the 1951 Festival of Britain and the 1957 World Scout Jubilee Jamboree.

In 1960 that changed when the Royal Mail started issuing special stamps in line with the well-established practice in other countries. In doing so, it quietly buried the dictat of George V, a keen philatelist, that the Continental habit of regularly issuing "specials" should not be copied.

In 1964, under the Postmaster-Generalship of Tony Benn, the first commemorative appeared featuring people other than the reigning monarch, and widened the scope for special issues. Today, followers of philately, which is the world's most popular hobby, are well served by the Royal Mail, which puts out seven or eight special issues every year.

The number is limited to eight because stamp sales and production patterns require gaps between issues.

The Royal Mail also wishes to avoid the bad habit of some countries of producing specials like confetti.

"It is quite clear that our customers would dislike it if

we issued more. It's not a market for 'milking'. We aim for the very highest quality we can get, and our efforts have been rewarded over the years with design awards," says the general manager of Royal Mail Stamps, Keith Fisher, who is in charge of 250 employees directly engaged in the philately business.

"Every year we get more than 1,000 letters suggesting subjects for special stamps. The final decision rests with the Post Office Board, which considers recommendations from the Royal Mail."

Specials come off sale after a fortnight at post offices and after a year at the Royal Mail's philatelic outlets. The stamps then pass into the hands of the stamp dealers.

"Christmas stamps are the most popular, and printing has to start in July," Mr Fisher says. "For the second-class Christmas stamps — although I should say the stamp for the second-class rate because we don't have any second-class stamps — the print run is 6,000 million. Other specials have much smaller print runs." The

main sales outlet for specials and other philatelic products such as first-day covers and presentation packs is the Royal Mail's Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh, which has about 200,000 regular customers world-wide.

West German philatelists are the bureau's best overseas customers.

"Our philatelic sales doubled in the Eighties and are still increasing at a healthy rate. Philately makes a profit for the Royal Mail and, of course, an important contribution to keeping down the cost of postage. I see the philately business going on for ever," Mr Fisher says.

The bureau also runs the Stamp Bug Club, which encourages philately among the young, and is the biggest children's club in the country, with nearly 70,000 members.

British stamps are at present on show at Stamp World 90, an international exhibition at Alexandra Palace, north London. The penny black's 150th birthday fell on May 6,

and all the historic material involved in the stamp's design is displayed there together for the first time.

About 75,000 visitors are expected to attend the exhibition, which also includes part of the Queen's private collection. The exhibition, which closes next Sunday, is open daily from 10am to 6pm (5pm on the last day). Admission for the final days is £3 for adults and £2 for children under 16.

Special exhibitions on the work of Rowland Hill, who introduced the uniform penny post, and the penny black stamp are also running throughout this anniversary year at the National Postal Museum in King Edward Street, London EC1, where the full history of British postage stamps and the work of the designers and craftsmen producing them can be explored any weekday between 9.30am and 4.30pm.

The museum contains a unique collection of 19th-century postage stamps, held in trust for the nation. The history of the Royal Mail itself can be traced in the Search Room of the Post Office Archives, Freeing House, 23 Glasshill Street, London SE1, between 9am and 4.15pm any weekday.

Anthony Cox



Serious stuff: devotees at the Stanley Gibbons shop

The long and rocky road to postal reform

Opening the 150th anniversary exhibition at the National Postal Museum, Dr John Marriott, keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, spoke of increasing dissatisfaction with postal affairs, and with the high rates of postage being charged.

To the relief of his audience, he was not voicing complaints about the present-day Royal Mail, but was outlining the events that led to the postal reform of 1840.

Rowland Hill's proposal for a flat-rate postage charge throughout the country was written in 1837 when sending a letter was complicated, uncertain and expensive. In London alone there were three separate postal systems. The Twopenny Post Office handled mail within London and the immediate area around it. The Inland Office, an ancestor of the Inland Revenue, had general charge of the postal system for the rest of the country and the Foreign Office dealt with mail to and from overseas. Every system had its own staff, methods and charges.

Contrary to popular belief, Hill did not invent the penny post. He proposed that it be made universal throughout the land, irrespective of the distance a letter had to travel.

By the mid-1830s, the two-penny mail was only one of many cheap local posts established in many British towns. There were 356 penny posts in England, 81 in Scotland and 295 in Ireland. The difficulty was in sending a letter from one town to another.

Postage was charged according to the distance and the number of sheets in a letter. The lowest rate for a single-sheet letter was four old pence for up to 15 miles, rising to a shilling for 300 miles, and an extra penny for every 100 miles beyond that. A two-sheet letter doubled those rates, and a three-sheet epic trebled them.

Thus, a single-page letter from London to Brighton cost eight pence, while a four-page saga from London to Glasgow should have cost a princely four shillings and four pence. But, in fact, it cost much less as charges varied, often for no apparent reason. A single-page letter that travelled the 400 miles between London and Glasgow, in fact, cost only

one and a half pence, yet a letter from Glasgow to Greenock, only 20 miles away, cost six pence.

It was hardly surprising that one of the first agitators for postal reform, pre-dating Hill by several years, was Robert Wallace, MP for Greenock.

Although, in theory, the postage could be paid by the sender in both the local and the general mails, it rarely was. Every item of mail had to be stamped "paid" or "unpaid" by the postal authority. The charge was calculated and written on every unpaid letter, an expensive, laborious and time-consuming exercise. Postage was almost always paid by the recipient, making the postman a considerably less welcome figure on the doorstep than he is today.

And it made delivery slow. A letter carrier in London, it was calculated, could deliver on average only 70 letters in an hour and a half as he had to collect his money at every call, rather like a modern one-man-bus driver.

However, the delivery of letters to the address on the envelope, while common in the local town posts, rarely applied to the general mails. Letters far away were delivered no further than the Post Office in the relevant town. There were no roadside pillar boxes in which to place mail. Letters had to be taken to the local Post Office or "receiving house", although in London and some large provincial towns, bellmen would walk the streets offering to collect mail, ringing a bell to attract attention.

Because of the sometimes high cost of the official mails, a considerable business grew up in contraband mails in defiance of the Postmaster-General's supposed monopoly, and letters were moved by stagecoach or private carriers.

Postage was regarded as a source of taxation rather than payment for a service, and a main plank in Hill's campaign was that a low and standard postal charge would increase tax revenue, both by stimulating demand and by rendering obsolete the need for contraband mail.

On both counts he was, in the end, proved right.

Alan Hamilton



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Continued from page 21

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071-481 4481

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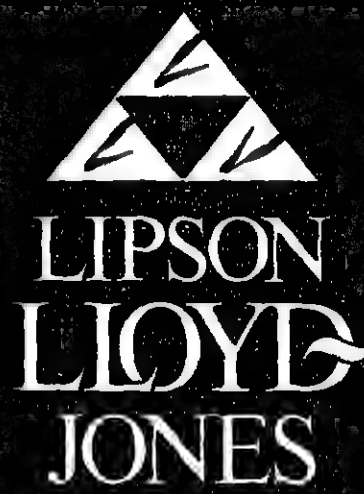
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TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

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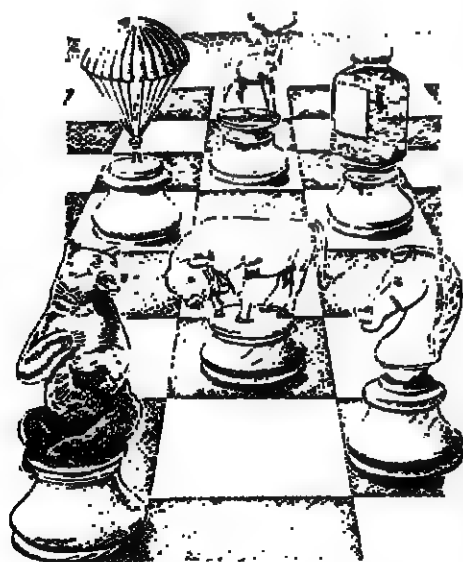
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Continued on next page

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The package on offer reflects the seniority of this post, the salary will be within the range £24,600 - £26,500 and other benefits include generous relocation assistance to this beautiful part of the country. A cost of living pay award is due from July.

For an informal discussion, ring Frank Twynning, on Truro (0872) 74282 ext. 2204. For an information pack and application form, call Judith Tretheway (ext. 2203) or write to the County Treasurer, County Hall, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3BD.

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Manager of Finance and Administration

The Greater London Fund for the Blind (GLFB), a medium sized fund-raising charity supporting 15 welfare organisations working for the benefit of blind Londoners, requires an administrator with practical experience of computerised bookkeeping and accounts to be responsible for the development and the cost-effective and efficient running of its financial, administrative and personnel functions.

Reporting to the Director (and eventually deputising in his absence), this senior post includes responsibility for the following areas:

Finance: Production of the annual budget, annual accounts (in cooperation with auditors), monthly management accounts, cash flow forecasts and other management information required.

Administration: Overall management, coordination and supervision to ensure the effectiveness of administrative systems, office machinery and office routines.

Personnel: Normal personnel functions including recruitment, training, discipline and pay for a staff of about 40, half of whom work at head office.

A major challenge will be the immediate introduction of computer based systems of bookkeeping and payroll accounting in an IBM compatible PC.

This post requires an energetic, practical individual of mature personality, resilience and drive, able to relate well with others. The right person will enjoy leading a team of well-motivated individuals as well as being part of a larger community working to help improve the quality of life for visually handicapped Londoners.

The starting salary is in the region of £17,500 per annum. Benefits include a contributory pension scheme and 20 working days annual holiday (currently under review).

Written applications for interview with CV to The Director, Greater London Fund for the Blind, 2 Wyndham Place, London W1H 2AQ.

HORIZONS

Probation officers move to the forefront

The service that advises offenders, Beryl Dixon finds, is trying to retain its main job in the midst of change

John Patten, the Home Office minister, has said: "We are looking to the probation service to move centre stage and to deal with even greater numbers of more serious offenders in the community."

Under the 1973 Power of Criminal Courts Act, probation officers must "advise, assist and befriend" those on probation. With this in mind, Mr Patten continued: "I know that the service has acquired useful skills and techniques, mixing authority and control with compassion and understanding, which, combined with the discipline of court orders, can help to bring about a change in behaviour." Yet there is fear in some parts of the service that under proposals in an imminent White Paper the service will be expected to move away from its social-work base, and become more punitive.

Will it, for instance, lose its responsibility for supervising community service orders?

There is some justified criticism, says Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, that offenders in some areas receive more lenient treatment than in others, and more standardization may be necessary.

Probation officers have always had to do a difficult balancing act.

I visited one area that believes it has got the balance right — Oldham, part of the Greater Manchester service.

Andrew Underdown, the divisional chief probation officer, says: "We do wish to retain our social work base and we use social work principles in treating offenders as individuals."

"The sentences are demanding on the offender. There could be a conflict for some staff between the concepts of care and control, but personally I think it is one of language. We hold offenders to the terms of the probation order. We do not make excuses for them, but we do try to get them to analyse the reasons for their behaviour."

The best-known aspects of the probation service's work are its reports for the courts and work with offenders who are given probation as an alternative to a custodial sentence. However, responsibilities have widened over the years so that officers are involved at every stage of a case.

Social inquiry reports have changed in the past few years, the Oldham staff say. They are no longer purely biographical but concentrate on factors relevant to the court's decision, and suggest, for example, which type of supervision order might be appropriate.



BARRY GREENWOOD

LYNNE CORCORAN (left), a social science graduate, works as a probation officer in Oldham's juvenile team. One of the first things she had to learn was how to decide priorities, even though in her team the week is fairly structured. "I have juvenile court and meetings with social services, the police and my team on set days," she says. "Around these, I fit my share of group work, social inquiry reports, paperwork, and other things on a day-to-day basis. Today, for example, I have a meeting to arrange next week's day centre work for motor vehicle offenders."

There are different routes into the probation service, mature entrants with varied experience being particularly welcome. Further information is available from Probation Service Division, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.

Work for the courts is still important. Because it costs £18 a week to supervise an offender in the community, compared with £275 in prison, judges and magistrates make more use of alternatives to jail when they are fully aware of what these involve.

The Greater Manchester service, like many others, has produced booklets for judges describing its work and the types of programmes it runs. Reports themselves take up a large slice of time and often have to be done quickly, meaning that officers may have to be good at organizing

and choosing priorities. It was in Oldham that the Department of Social Security cracked down on moonlighting taxi-drivers last year. Forty were prosecuted and 40 reports were required within days.

After sentence, probation officers work with offenders in various ways. Ten years ago, the main method was reporting. Officers attended at set times for individual advisory and counselling sessions. Courts still make probation orders with no further conditions, but many make greater use of probation service-devised pro-

grammes, which may be administered by the service itself or community organizations. "We have put a lot of effort into these in the past year," Mr Underdown says, "and the courts have realized their potential."

All encroach on free time and all carry strict penalties, including the ultimate threat of prison for non-compliance. Programmes range in length and specialization, from short courses on alcohol or drug abuse, to longer ones, culminating in the acquisition of

basic work skills. All involve discussion groups, largely run by probation officers. An offender's job takes priority, so a large amount of group and individual work must be done in evenings and at weekends, with obvious effects on officers' social life. Supervising community service orders — by probation officers or by the community service organizations working with them — involves even more unsocial hours.

Other responsibilities of the service are: thorough care, maintaining contact with prisoners and

their families during sentence — automatic in the case of under-21s; specialist work with juvenile offenders, in close liaison with social workers, and civil work, largely providing reports about the future of the children of divorcing parents. In addition, probation officers these days liaise with other agencies, working on crime prevention, often taking the lead in initiating projects. Policy varies in different areas, so that in some it is possible to retain a generic caseload, while in others, officers may specialize in one aspect for two or three years.

071-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

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For an informal discussion about the post, contact Alan Jackson, retiring Head of Leisure Services, on 0279 446400.

More information about Harlow, the Council and this post is available together with an application form from the General Manager's Office, Harlow Council, Town Hall, Harlow, CM20 1BJ. Telephone 0279 446001. Closing Date: 18th May, 1990.

HARLOW

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Centro is the body responsible for procuring local rail services, subsidised bus services, concessionary travel and providing passenger information in the West Midlands. It is also responsible for improving passenger transport provision through projects such as Midland Metro.

Midland Metro is an advanced light rail rapid system for the West Midlands.

The first line between Birmingham and Wolverhampton is to be completed by 1993. Further lines linking Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Birmingham city centre to the NEC and airport are currently before Parliament and further bills are planned.

To meet the challenge of this major project we need enthusiastic and ambitious engineers and planners.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER £16331 - £18559 (ref M/74)

ENGINEER £12508 - £15099 (ref M/75)

These posts are initially to progress Midland Metro routes from enactment of Parliamentary Bills to letting of contracts. The duties include investigating options for line construction and operation, preparation of specifications and project management of track, vehicle and system design.

Applicants should have several years experience in engineering, preferably in transport/highways and be familiar with project control and contracts/tendering. You should be educated to degree level and preferably possess a professional engineering qualification.

DESIGN TEAM

SENIOR DESIGN ENGINEER/DESIGN ENGINEER (ref M/76)

£16331 - £18559 or £13961 - £15331

depending on experience and qualifications

This career grade post is part of the Design team which is responsible for progressing Midland Metro routes from concept through Parliamentary Bills to enactment.

The duties include preliminary route design, assessing broad corridor and detailed route options, supporting Parliamentary Bills and liaising with District Councils.

Applicants should have at least 2 years experience in engineering/planning, preferably transport related. You should be educated to degree level and preferably possess a professional engineering/planning qualification.

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This post is part of the Environment team providing planning advice and support to the Metro Development department.

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For all the above posts it is essential that you can work effectively as part of a team, show enthusiasm and energy for the project, be a good communicator and be able to cope with deadlines.

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Application form and further details are available from Harlow Council, Personnel Department, Centre, 18 Summer Lane, Birmingham B19 3SD.

Tel 021 214 7030. Closing date: 25th May 1990.

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PO33-36

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The post offers wide experience with an innovative employer that is committed to developing its personnel.

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Application forms and information pack available from the Head of Personnel and Committee Services, East Staffordshire District Council, Town Hall, Burton upon Trent DE14 2EB. Tel: Burton upon Trent (0283) 45454 extension 3102 during office hours or Burton upon Trent (0283) 42703 after 5.00 pm and at weekends for an answerphone service. Please quote reference No. D/2/5.

Closing date for applications is 28th May 1990.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

CLEVELAND COUNTY COUNCIL



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- * development of co-ordinated and coherent policies of service provision.
- * ensuring the programme of service development is relevant.

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Application forms and written particulars can be obtained by telephoning the Personnel Section on (0642) 246945 - direct line. The closing date for return of completed application forms is Friday, 18th May, 1990.

It is anticipated that interviews will take place during week commencing 4th June, 1990.

We are working towards equality for women, black people and people with disabilities. All applicants who have the support of the Displacement Resettlement Officer will be granted an interview.



INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE OF GREAT BRITAIN

DIRECTOR

This post will become vacant in October on the resignation of the present Director, Miss W.J. Rouse O.B.E. Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people with a high level of leadership and management skills to direct this important voluntary agency.

ISS(GB) is an independent Branch of the international agency which has its Headquarters in Geneva. It is responsible primarily for the International Casework Programme which can link social workers around the world to help them solve individual problems arising from movement between countries. It is also involved in a number of interesting programmes linked to this work. At the British Branch these include a Foreign Marriage Advisory Service, a programme of support for elderly refugees in this country and the Return of Talent to Africa Programme helping Africans with high levels of skill in fields relevant to the development of their country to find suitable posts. Other projects are under consideration. ISS(GB) needs to play a full part in the work of the international organisation.

The Branch receives a grant from the Department of Health but raises most of its income from voluntary sources through the work of a highly competent Committee.

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Applications, with details of qualifications and experience, by June 7th 1990 to: SIR TERENCE STREETON KBE, CMG, INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE, CRANMER HOUSE, 35, BRUXTON ROAD, LONDON SW9 6DQ.

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Closing date for application forms: 18th May, 1990, 23

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To apply please contact: See Bentley, RGN, Medic International, 4 Thameside Centre, New Bridge Road, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 0AT

Tel: 081 568 4300

(599L)

'Vigilance' required for disregard of spirit of the game

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

SENDINGS-OFF in each of the English and Welsh cup finals on Saturday produced a slightly melancholy conclusion to the 1989-90 season, as the emphasis on the need for vigilance by all the home unions now that they have embraced national competitive structures.

The dismissal of John Gadd in the Pilkington final, and Andrew Kembery in the Schweppes final, did not mar either occasion significantly, though both Gloucester and Neath would have preferred it not to have happened. But the warning signs are plain.

December was a sad month in Wales, when four players from senior clubs were sent off on the same day, and over the opening three months of the season dismissals increased by 41 per cent, even though the sin bin is still in operation. The figures for the English season will not be collated until mid-summer but sendings-off by London Society referees of the have reached a new high of 194 compared with the society's previous record of 172.

The Rugby Football Union established a working party early this season to report on

ways and means of preventing violence. The report, compiled by Ian Beer, Andy Ripley and Tony Trigg, is being considered by the RFU various sub-committees. Several proposals are in the pipeline but the report suggests there is no need to change the laws because it is the application of them that is important.

The working party discovered that players felt there was inconsistent treatment of offenders in parts of the country and recommended that players sent off in national league, Pilkington Cup or divisional matches should appear before a RFU disciplinary board rather than, as now, their own county disciplinary committees.

They suggested that touch judges, competent to indicate acts of foul play, should be present at national league and Pilkington Cup matches, even though this would place a great strain on the manpower available to referees' societies. That would do away with the anomaly of county cup matches having three qualified officials at semi-finals and finals but no touch judges to flag for foul play in the first

four rounds of the Pilkington Cup.

The working party also said the RFU should have access to video recordings in line with recent International Rugby Football Board recommendations. Last month the New Zealand RFU council accepted that the use of video evidence was likely to be criticised by Eddie Tonks, the new council chairman, that this could detract from the referee's authority. "I think it gets away from the spirit of the game," Tonks said. But the game's spirit is in the hands of today's players and if they fail to observe it in increasing numbers, then they must be made to do so.

Peter Yarratton, the junior vice-president of the RFU, and Bob Rogers, of Sussex, have been invited to prepare a paper on England's recommendations on the amateur regulations relating to "communications for reward". An IRFB special committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Ewart Bell, of Ireland, will consider the paper along with other recommendations before October's interim meeting of the board.

OVERSEAS FOOTBALL

Ajax end monopoly but their supporters spoil the party

By Keith Blackmore

AJAX broke PSV Eindhoven's four-year monopoly of the Dutch championship on Sunday but not without providing a remainder of why they will not be allowed to enter the European Cup next season.

Their 1-1 draw against Nijmegen was enough to carry them to the title which they last won in 1985, but the match was interrupted for 15 minutes by pitch invasions, reviving memories of the missile-throwing which led to the abandonment of Ajax's UEFA Cup tie against Austria Vienna last September and subsequently to their suspension from European competition.

FC Twente will be no Dutch representative in the champions competition but PSV, who beat Haarlem 2-0, with goals by Kieft and Vanenburg at the weekend, will take part in the European Cup Winners' Cup, and Twente Enschede and Roda JC will enter the UEFA Cup.

Portugal, on the other hand, may have two representatives in the next European Cup. Benfica

would qualify as holders, if they were to beat AC Milan in the European Cup final on May 23, and Porto have qualified as Portuguese champions by beating Sporting 1-0 on Sunday.

Coutinho goal carried Porto to the reach of Benfica and gave them their tenth first division championship. Benfica will take consolation from their performance against União, whom they beat 4-2, with the Swedish forward, Magnusson, scoring twice, the second being his 32nd goal of the season.

An individual scoring feat was also the principal feature of the league season. Real had long since won the Spanish championship, but 100,000 people thought it worth attending the Bernabeu stadium on Saturday to see if the Mexican forward, Hugo Sánchez, could score three times against Real Oviedo and equal the scoring record for a single season, 38, set by Telmo Zarra, of Athletic Bilbao, in 1951.

Sánchez obliged with goals in

the 37th minute, a header in the 46th and another in the 63rd. He thus equalled the achievement of Alfredo Di Stefano by becoming the club's leading scorer for a fifth time.

Real won the match 5-2, the last goal being their 107th of the season, another record, and they finished the season 12 points ahead of the second placed team, Barcelona.

Marseille took another step towards retaining the French championship by beating Auxerre, who had won their previous seven league matches. Francesco opened the scoring and Papin made the match safe, with his thirtieth goal of the season.

Club Brugge won the Belgian championship with a match to spare by beating St Truiden 3-0, while Anderlecht, in second place, could only draw with Gevren. Anderlecht will hope for a better performance when they play Sampdoria in the Cup Winners' Cup in Gothenburg tomorrow.

OVERSEAS LEAGUE RESULTS

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Bang, like the sound of a gunshot, went our mast support and challenge for third place

Everyone on deck to see Britain's bright hopes sink

100 miles east of Georgetown, South Carolina, United States

DISASTER struck us at 7.15GMT. It was blowing 23 knots and we were pushing the boat hard under a full mainsail and No. 3 genoa into the steep swells of the Gulf Stream.

On the previous tack, we had taken 10 miles out of Merit, our rival for third place overall, to the east, which has been shadowing Peter Blake's leading yacht, Steinlager.

We were the most northerly boat, riding the strongest part of the Stream with The Card immediately behind and Fisher & Paykel to leeward.

We were just congratulating ourselves for having recovered from such a poor start when bang... the port diagonal rod supporting the middle of the mast broke in two, the gunshot sound being the only warning which brought everyone up on deck.

Without this essential support, the mast bent over like a longbow, leaving us only seconds to throw the boat on to the opposite tack and save it from breaking in two. We did... just, but it took a little longer for the reality to sink in.

Unless something equally dramatic befalls Steinlager, Fisher & Paykel or Merit, our chance for third place is spent. Now, the race is to retain fourth place from Roger Nilson's Swedish ketch, The Card, and Charles Jourdan, the French yacht skippered by Alain Gabbay, who balked us so badly at the start.

Rothmans had a comfortable 92-hour cushion over The Card and a 103-hour lead over Charles Jourdan at the start of this final leg back to Southampton. It is far from comfortable now but, with luck, we should be able to reach Georgetown, replace both D3 rods (the starboard rod merely as a precaution)

Lawrie Smith

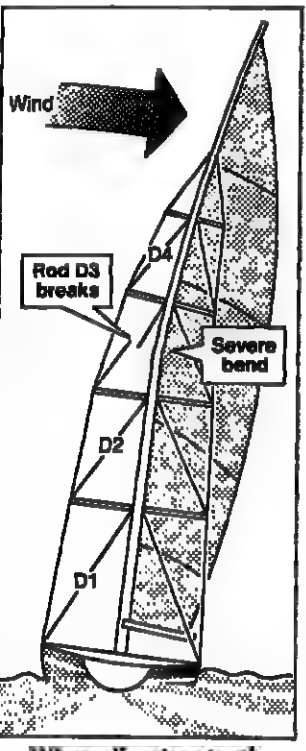
The skipper of Rothmans reports on the final leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race

and be back to our position within 30 hours.

Pit stops in a strange port are always more involved than at a racetrack. But within minutes of our calling back to base, our shore crew were sorting out the logistics. New cobalt rods, machined to size, have been rushed down from Charlottesville in north Carolina.

The team has flown up from Fort Lauderdale and a crane is standing by to pull the entire mast out if required. If all goes well, we will be tied up for no more than an hour.

During the lonely sail in, we



Where disaster struck

Sunstone gains overall win in slow opener

By Malcolm McKean

THE 1990 offshore racing season got off to a slow start — and that is official — over the weekend when David Head's Beneteau 51 Aida, first to finish, took almost 40 hours to complete the 155-mile Ceramug Trophy course from Cowes to Le Havre, by way of the Dorset coast.

Aida's average speed was just under four knots, the limit at which the Royal Oceanic Racing Club's regulations officially declare a "slow race" and bring into force special radio reporting procedures to ensure competitors remain accounted for.

This was the first race in which the main trophy went to a yacht racing under the relatively new International Measurement System, but there was nothing new about the

overall winner: Tom and Vicki Jackson's Sunstone. This remarkable Sparanac and Stephens design, which celebrates her 21st birthday later this year, appears able to win under any system the handicappers can devise — although in this case perseverance must account for much.

Two-thirds of the fleet retired, principally out of boredom.

RESULTS: RORC Ceramug Trophy Race
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Belmez to strengthen Derby claim

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

ALTHOUGH there are only three runners for the Daihatsu Chester Vase at Chester today, there will be no lack of interest as the search for the likely winner of this year's Derby intensifies.

This is the trial that pointed to both Henbit and Shergar being good enough to win at Epsom at the beginning of the last decade. Since then, Law Society and Old Vic have won it prior to capturing the Irish Derby. In Old Vic's case he also won the Prix de Jockey-Club (French Derby) first.

Being by El Gran Senor, the winner of the Irish Derby, and out of a mare by Top Ville, who won the French Derby, Belmez certainly has an ideal pedigree for today's distance and he is my selection.

When I was in Newmarket last week I saw him work very nicely indeed on the Lincolns round gallop with

Saumarez and Razeen, who are also unbeaten.

Those who attach importance to times may find it significant that when Belmez won the Burghclere Stakes on his seasonal debut at Newbury last month, he recorded a time 2.1 seconds faster than did Quest For Fame over the same course and distance the day before.

Since then Dress Parade, the horse that Quest For Fame beat, and a stable companion of Belmez, has let the form down somewhat by finishing only third at Newmarket last Thursday.

Barry Hills, who has always regarded a race at Chester as an essential part of a horse's education, will saddle Missionary Ridge, who is a close relative of not only Cracaval, one of his two previous winners of today's trial, but also Dibdale, who won the Cheshire Oaks.

Taking the Chester connection a stage further, Missionary Ridge is a half-brother to Seismic Wave, the winner of the Ormonde Stakes three years ago.

Now Hills, who was agast at the way that Missionary Ridge performed at Sandown first time out when he was a disappointing fourth in the Guardian Classic Trial, is hoping that his colt can recapture the form he showed when a creditable third to Saturday's 2,000 Guineas winner Tirol in last year's Morris Hill Stakes at Newbury.

However Missionary Ridge fares, Regimental Arms can give the master of Manton something to smile about by winning the Grosvenor Maiden Stakes. I liked the way that this half-brother to Gildoras shaped behind Great Heights at Newmarket and he is preferred to Jamun, who finished third behind Nov Liston and Eton Lad at Nottingham.

Wassl Port, Nayland, Brezled Well, Fedora and



Walter Swinburn: rides Talabarra at Folkestone

Othergyle, who finished first, second, third, fifth and tenth in the Spring Cup at Newbury, meet again in the Tote Credit Trophy. On the revised terms, I just prefer Othergyle.

Manweb Handicap, caught the eye when finishing a

creditable third behind Eradicate and Lord David S at Newmarket first time out. In the meantime, Eradicate has won a second time.

It's All Academic, my choice to win the Lily Agnes Stakes, showed the requisite speed on her debut at Pontefract when easily accounting for two previous winners.

Finally, Timeless Times is taken to remain unbeaten by winning the Metropole Challenge Cup at Folkestone where Talabarra, who is the reason for Walter Swinburn's presence on the East Kent course, is named to win the Barham Three-Year-Old Maiden Stakes on the strength of her consistently good home work.

Being by Darshan and out of a half-sister to Top Ville, she should relish the trip and account for her main rival, Kalmadeen.

Blinkered first time

CHESTER: 4.15 No More The Fool. SALISBURY: 3.30 Maiden Vase, Copper Top. FOLKESTONE: 7.20 Hardy Hawk.

Judges not well sited for difficult decisions

Point-to-point by Brian Beel

THE stewards were besieged by an angry crowd after the Forties had been judged the winner of the maiden race at the Farnham point-to-point on Saturday.

When horses are wide apart, the worst position for determining finishing orders and distances is right against the rails, yet organizers persist in giving this position to the judge.

To those opposite the line window, the judge's decision appeared that Nick Connors had definitely finished in front on Rapid Wave but the judge gave the verdict of a neck the other way.

The firm to hand ground took its toll on the number of runners at most meetings and at the Cotswold spectators had to wait until the third race to see any action with a few runners in the first and no declarations at all for the adjacent.

Alison Dare, in winning the match for the ladies' open on Saturday, was the only one to make it to 17 and needs only three more to equal Josie Sheppard's record score of 1974.

After 11 horses had taken part in the national country race at the Old Surrey and only 15 more turned out for the other six races in which all the winners except El Padre were long odds-on favourites.

The West Norfolk, however, produced good ground at Fakenham and averaged over 10 runners a race. Pendi's Niece became a live contender for The Times championship final with an impressive win in the PPOA race.

William Wales, who rode Pendi's Niece, went on to complete a double on Darrington Deal in the open. This race was marred by the death of George Verge's top class gelding, Suckling.

Four came to the last together at the end of the four-mile ladies' open at the Mollery and only two lengths separated them at the finish. Queen Bevan held off a strong challenge from Fulman but Dicky Bloo, only a short head behind, may have been unlucky as he slipped on the bend two out.

In the ladies' open at the Fendle Forest & Craven, Jeanne Bracken rode the wrong side of a marker on the favourite, Ask Jean with Bluecoat Boy, ridden by Fiona Tate, being awarded the race.

Garry Hamner was the most successful rider at the Alfrick, where he won on by a neck in the adjacent on our Fandango before winning the maiden on Jay's day.

Byrne excels on Sybillin to land Haydock prize

Byrne, assured of the con-

ditional jockey's title, was taking his score for the season to 43. "I was always very happy in the race," Byrne said. "Although Tommy Carmody won a long way in front, I knew he was going too fast for his own good."

Graham McCourt and Arthur Stephenson edged nearer their respective centuries when they teamed up with Dancing River in the Taylor-Made Sports Handicap Hurdle.

Dancing River, scoring his third success in his last four starts over jumps, had to pull out all the stops and it needed all McCourt's power to get him home by a head from Stay Awake.

Bernard Hathaway, the winning owner, said: "He's a nice horse and I'm very pleased with him. He had plenty of weight today but he battled on well and that was good for me."

He could win on the Flat but he's a particularly good jumper and I think we should stick to this game."

Reg Akehurst and Luke Harvey, responsible for the best performance, Old Virginia, in Dancing River's race, gained quick compensation when Loamingdale followed up last week's Ascot success in the National Estate Agents Novices' Handicap Hurdle.

The 2-1 favourite needed a couple of sharp reminders from Harvey turning for home but then quickly took command and came away to score by six lengths in a very fast time.

Loamingdale is now unbeaten in his two starts in blinkers. "He's a bit lazy and is a lot better with the blinkers on," Harvey said.

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CHESTER Selections

By Mandarin
2.15 It's All Academic.
2.45 Regimental Arms.
3.15 Belmez.
3.45 Othergyle.
4.15 Pandy.
4.45 Rivers Rhapsody.

By Michael Seely
3.45 Fiddling.
4.45 Fiddling.

Going: good Draw: low numbers best in sprints

2.15 LILY AGNES STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,841: 5f) (6 runners)
101 (2) 2 GONE SAVAGE 34 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
102 (3) 4 PRINCE OF IRELAND 20 (Horsehoe Racing) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
103 (4) 3 PRINCE OF IRELAND 20 (Horsehoe Racing) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
104 (5) 1 VINTAGE ONLY 17 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
105 (6) 1 IT'S ALL ACADEMIC 20 (Horsehoe Racing) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
106 (7) 14 MISS EL ARAB 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
BETTING: 7-4 Vintage Only, 5-2 It's All Academic, 3-1 Gone Savage, 9-2 Miss El Arab, 12-1 Prince Of Ireland.

1888 LYNDSEY 8-6 J Carroll (11-4) J Barry 8 ran
FORM FOCUS GONE SAVAGE kept on the pace in the first half of the race, but was overtaken by Prince of Ireland in the second half. Prince of Ireland was the only horse to finish in the top three. GONE SAVAGE was the only horse to finish in the bottom three.

2.45 GROSVENOR MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,737: 1m 2f 85yd) (11 runners)
201 (1) 6225-2 AMBROSIO 10 (Mrs G Johnson) R Johnson 9-0 S Causton
202 (2) 3 BAYLIS 20 (B) (Mrs G Johnson) R Johnson 9-0 S Causton
203 (3) 0-5 JANE 20 (J Pacey) G Wigg 9-0 S Causton
204 (4) 0000-0 ONE FOR THE BOYS 7 (A Paddy) F Durr 9-0 S Causton
205 (5) 0-6 POSTAGE STAMP 18 (R Sanger) J Hills 9-0 S Causton
206 (6) 202-1 JANE 20 (J Pacey) G Wigg 9-0 S Causton
207 (7) 4440-5 RITA LOUISE 18 (P Paringer) R Hillshead 9-0 S Causton
208 (8) 6-53300 STORM JIB 4 (D Davies) S Pacey 9-0 S Causton
209 (9) 0-6 GAZALIN 17 (A McManus) W Heston 9-0 S Causton
210 (10) 0-6 GAZALIN 17 (A McManus) W Heston 9-0 S Causton
211 (11) 0-6 GAZALIN 17 (A McManus) W Heston 9-0 S Causton
BETTING: 3-1 Regimental Arms, 7-2 Jams, 4-1 Gazeal, 5-1 Baylis, 10-1 Rita Louise, 14-1 Storm Jib, 16-1 others.

1888 SHARADOUN 9-0 W Swinburn (11-10) M Scales 8 ran
FORM FOCUS AMBROSIO kept on the pace in the first half of the race, but was overtaken by Prince of Ireland in the second half. Prince of Ireland was the only horse to finish in the top three. AMBROSIO was the only horse to finish in the bottom three.

3.15 DALHAM CHESTER VASE (Group III: 3-Y-O: £24,770: 1m 4f 65yd) (3 runners)
301 (1) 1-1 BELMEZ 17 (G) (Sheikh Mohammed) H Cael 8-11 S Causton
302 (2) 0213-4 MISSIONARY RIDGE 10 (G) (Sheikh Mohammed) H Cael 8-11 S Causton
303 (3) 0-1 QUEST FOR FAME 10 (G) (Sheikh Mohammed) H Cael 8-11 S Causton
BETTING: 10-1 Belmez, 5-1 Missionary Ridge, 5-1 Quest For Fame.

1888 OLD VIC 8-11 S Causton (8-4) Eel M Scales 8 ran
FORM FOCUS BELMEZ was a shock winner, beating Missionary Ridge and Quest For Fame. BELMEZ was the only horse to finish in the top three. Missionary Ridge and Quest For Fame were the only horses to finish in the bottom three.

4.45 PRINCE OF WALES HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £27,408: 5f) (14 runners)
601 (1) 3230-0 BRISAS 7 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
602 (2) 3231-1 RIVERS RHAPSODY 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
603 (3) 3232-2 RIVERS RHAPSODY 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
604 (4) 3233-3 RIVERS RHAPSODY 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
605 (5) 3234-4 RIVERS RHAPSODY 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
606 (6) 3235-5 RIVERS RHAPSODY 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
607 (7) 3236-6 RIVERS RHAPSODY 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
608 (8) 3237-7 RIVERS RHAPSODY 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
609 (9) 3238-8 RIVERS RHAPSODY 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
610 (10) 3239-9 RIVERS RHAPSODY 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
611 (11) 3240-0 RIVERS RHAPSODY 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
612 (12) 3241-1 RIVERS RHAPSODY 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
613 (13) 3242-2 RIVERS RHAPSODY 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
614 (14) 3243-3 RIVERS RHAPSODY 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
BETTING: 1-1 Prince of Wales, 2-1 Brisas, 3-1 Rhythmic, 4-1 Rhythmic, 5-1 Rhythmic, 6-1 Rhythmic, 7-1 Rhythmic, 8-1 Rhythmic, 9-1 Rhythmic, 10-1 Rhythmic, 11-1 Rhythmic, 12-1 Rhythmic, 13-1 Rhythmic, 14-1 Rhythmic.

1888 EASTERN EMBER 7-7 J Carroll (12-1) M Scales 14 ran
FORM FOCUS BRISAS did not get the best of the race, but was overtaken by Prince of Wales in the second half. Prince of Wales was the only horse to finish in the top three. BRISAS was the only horse to finish in the bottom three.

3.0 REDENHAM CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,297: 1m) (13 runners)
1 (1) 000-0 BOUNDER 19 (N) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
2 (2) 000-0 BOUNDER 19 (N) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
3 (3) 000-0 BOUNDER 19 (N) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
4 (4) 000-0 BOUNDER 19 (N) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
5 (5) 000-0 BOUNDER 19 (N) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
6 (6) 000-0 BOUNDER 19 (N) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
7 (7) 000-0 BOUNDER 19 (N) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
8 (8) 000-0 BOUNDER 19 (N) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
9 (9) 000-0 BOUNDER 19 (N) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
10 (10) 000-0 BOUNDER 19 (N) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
11 (11) 000-0 BOUNDER 19 (N) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
12 (12) 000-0 BOUNDER 19 (N) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
13 (13) 000-0 BOUNDER 19 (N) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
BETTING: 9-4 Rushkhan, 11-4 Amelara, 7-2 Goldobur, 9-2 Xhai, 8-1 Daily Sport, 10-1 Alrobel, 16-1 Khatun.

1888 DOWNEY 4-8-10 W Newman (8-11) H Candy 13 ran
FORM FOCUS BOUNDER did not get the best of the race, but was overtaken by Prince of Wales in the second half. Prince of Wales was the only horse to finish in the top three. BOUNDER was the only horse to finish in the bottom three.

4.0 WINCANTON MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,602: 1m 2f 10 runners)
1 (1) 50 BLACK SAPHIRE 10 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Hills 9-0 S Causton
2 (2) 50 BLACK SAPHIRE 10 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Hills 9-0 S Causton
3 (3) 50 BLACK SAPHIRE 10 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Hills 9-0 S Causton
4 (4) 50 BLACK SAPHIRE 10 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Hills 9-0 S Causton
5 (5) 50 BLACK SAPHIRE 10 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Hills 9-0 S Causton
6 (6) 50 BLACK SAPHIRE 10 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Hills 9-0 S Causton
7 (7) 50 BLACK SAPHIRE 10 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Hills 9-0 S Causton
8 (8) 50 BLACK SAPHIRE 10 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Hills 9-0 S Causton
9 (9) 50 BLACK SAPHIRE 10 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Hills 9-0 S Causton
10 (10) 50 BLACK SAPHIRE 10 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Hills 9-0 S Causton
BETTING: 11-10 Allez Mady, 4-1 Black Sapphire, 4-1 Hypnotist, 7-1 Donna Venus, 10-1 Khatun, 12-1 Vero, 16-1 others.

1888 SHOTICE 9-0 S Raymond (9-2) T Time 17 ran
FORM FOCUS BLACK SAPHIRE did not get the best of the race, but was overtaken by Prince of Wales in the second half. Prince of Wales was the only horse to finish in the top three. BLACK SAPHIRE was the only horse to finish in the bottom three.

3.30 CITY BOWL HANDICAP (£2,976: 1m 6f) (7 runners)
1 (1) 0151-0 AMELARA 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
2 (2) 0152-1 AMELARA 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
3 (3) 0153-2 AMELARA 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
4 (4) 0154-3 AMELARA 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
5 (5) 0155-4 AMELARA 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
6 (6) 0156-5 AMELARA 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
7 (7) 0157-6 AMELARA 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
BETTING: 9-4 Rushkhan, 11-4 Amelara, 7-2 Goldobur, 9-2 Xhai, 8-1 Daily Sport, 10-1 Alrobel, 16-1 Khatun.

1888 DOWNEY 4-8-10 W Newman (8-11) H Candy 13 ran
FORM FOCUS AMELARA did not get the best of the race, but was overtaken by Prince of Wales in the second half. Prince of Wales was the only horse to finish in the top three. AMELARA was the only horse to finish in the bottom three.

4.0 DORSET HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,574: 1m) (12 runners)
1 (1) 000-0 BEAULIEUX 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
2 (2) 000-0 BEAULIEUX 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
3 (3) 000-0 BEAULIEUX 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
4 (4) 000-0 BEAULIEUX 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
5 (5) 000-0 BEAULIEUX 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
6 (6) 000-0 BEAULIEUX 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
7 (7) 000-0 BEAULIEUX 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
8 (8) 000-0 BEAULIEUX 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
9 (9) 000-0 BEAULIEUX 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
10 (10) 000-0 BEAULIEUX 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
11 (11) 000-0 BEAULIEUX 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
12 (12) 000-0 BEAULIEUX 10 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
BETTING: 11-10 Allez Mady, 4-1 Black Sapphire, 4-1 Hypnotist, 7-1 Donna Venus, 10-1 Khatun, 12-1 Vero, 16-1 others.

1888 SHOTICE 9-0 S Raymond (9-2) T Time 17 ran
FORM FOCUS BEAULIEUX did not get the best of the race, but was overtaken by Prince of Wales in the second half. Prince of Wales was the only horse to finish in the top three. BEAULIEUX was the only horse to finish in the bottom three.

3.0 DURNFORD HANDICAP (£3,739: 7f) (18 runners)
1 (1) 0100-0 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
2 (2) 0101-1 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
3 (3) 0102-2 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
4 (4) 0103-3 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
5 (5) 0104-4 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
6 (6) 0105-5 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
7 (7) 0106-6 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
8 (8) 0107-7 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
9 (9) 0108-8 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
10 (10) 0109-9 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
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18 (18) 0117-7 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
BETTING: 9-4 Rushkhan, 11-4 Amelara, 7-2 Goldobur, 9-2 Xhai, 8-1 Daily Sport, 10-1 Alrobel, 16-1 Khatun.

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FORM FOCUS CHASE THE DOOR did not get the best of the race, but was overtaken by Prince of Wales in the second half. Prince of Wales was the only horse to finish in the top three. CHASE THE DOOR was the only horse to finish in the bottom three.

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4 (4) 0103-3 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
5 (5) 0104-4 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
6 (6) 0105-5 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
7 (7) 0106-6 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
8 (8) 0107-7 CHASE THE DOOR 20 (B) (Mrs C Heston) P Cole 8-11 T O'Brien
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Olazábal breaks his duck

GB or Ireland unless stated
 278; J. M. Glazebrook (Sop) 68, 69, 73;
 281; J. Woodman 59, 69, 73;
 283; S. L. Lloyd 68, 69, 73;
 283; M. McNulty (2am) 59, 69, 73;
 283; P. Watson 70, 71, 75, 76; J. Island (SA)
 68, 71, 75, 76; H. Herwood (Aus) 71, 69,
 73;
 287; G. Brand Jr 72, 71, 73, 73.F Railway
 67, 72, 74, 74; C. Montgomery 69, 72, 74;
 68, 74, C. G. T. 74;
 287; P. Fowles (Aus) 78, 73, 74, 68.K
 Fremble (Aus) 74, 73, 75; J. J. N. Falcio 78,
 70, 71, 69; J. Hyndson (Ses) 74, 71, 76,
 70, 71, 76, 70, 71, 76, 71, 76, 71, 76,
 71, 77, 68, 73; M. Clark 70, 69, 75, 74; D.
 Faherty 73, 70, 72, 74; R. McRintyre 74,
 69, 72, 74;
 287; J. Taylor (Aus) 73, 73, 60, 67; P. Hoed
 72, 74, 71, 73; P. Rankin 70, 70, 71, 74;
 287; J. Rutledge (Can) 73, 73, 74, 71; E.
 J. Rutledge 71, 71, 72, 71; J. Johnstone
 73, 70, 70, 75, 75;

[illegible]

It's in: José-María Olazábal holes on the 18th to take the Uniroyal International

Ronan Rafferty, however, said he would not put it among his top 10 courses and David Feherty had much the same to say after a final round of 74. "I'd be an 11-handicap golfer if I played this course as an amateur," Feherty said.

On Sunday, however, Stewart banished his nickname probably

By John Watson

his protégé to triumph

By Stephen Slater

Confusion testing a

The Reynard car of Ricardo Rydell crashed heavily on the fourth lap. The car was destroyed but the Swede escaped injury. Following the restart only four cars finished the event. They were led home by Alain Menu, of Switzerland, who finished the race in 38min 5.9sec ahead of Pedro Chávez, of Portugal, and Richard Dean, of Great Britain.

"We can't organize anti-doping tests in five minutes," said Giuseppe Piana, the head physician of the Imola autodrome, where the third event of the 1990 World Formula One Championship will take place.

Jean-Marie Balestre, the president of the sport's governing body, said recently that

list of forbidden substances," Roberto Baroletti, the doctor of the Italian Ferrari team, said. Leading drivers, including the world champion, Alain Prost, of France, and his great Brazilian rival, Ayrton Senna, have said in recent interviews they were in favour of drug tests.

The two Lancias moved nearly one minute ahead of Sainz, who lost team-mate Ar-

min Schwarz on the final stage of the day with transmission trouble.

Louise Aitken-Walker, of Britain, moved into twelfth place overall and first in the European Ladies' Cup battle after new parts were flown in overnight by the Vauxhall team from England to cure a vibration problem on the drive shafts of her Astra.

LEADING POSITIONS: After 13 stages: 1, D Auroi (Fr), Lancia, 2h 54min07sec; 2, Y. Loubet (Fr), Lancia, 2:54.28; 3, C Senez (Sp), Toyota, 2:55.17; 4, F Chamiot (Fr), BMW, 2:56.09, 5, B Saby (Fr), Lancia, 2:57.38; 6, R Baumschlager (Austria), VW, 3:10.05.

Island airlift

By Chris Moore

KENNY Hibbitt, the former Wolves midfielder player, is favourite to succeed John Basswell as the manager of Walsall, who have been relegated to the fourth division. Hibbitt will be offered the job

Cadiz were bottom of the Spanish first division with 10 games to play when the former Hereford and Derby County manager took over in March.

<p>Team: Tucson, Veterans: A Moss (ver), 32-45.</p>	<p>BASEBALL</p> <p>NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pittsburgh Pirates 5, Atlanta Braves 4; New York Mets 2, Houston Astros 4; Philadelphia Phillies 1, Los Angeles Dodgers 1; San Francisco Giants 1, San Diego Padres 8; Chicago Cubs 3.</p>	<p>East Division</p> <p>W L Pct GB</p>
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ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup
Campbell Conference finals:
Chicago Black Hawks 5, Edmonton Oilers 3

MIDDLEBURY: *Epitaph* Denslow and Cleveland championships: Finals: Singles: Men: M Baldridge bt S Damer, 6-1, 6-1. Women: A Oliver bt J Neel, 7-5, 6-1. Doubles: Men: A Reed and Baldridge bt G Fowler and Damer, 7-6, 7-6. Women: J Brews and Oliver bt C Moore and P Connelly, 6-1, 6-3.

ATP: Rankings: 1, I Lendl (Cz), 3,073pts; 2, S Evertz (Swe), 2,881; 3, B Becker (WGe), 2,692.

next month as part of his build-up for Wimbledon. Lendl, who is missing the French Championships to concentrate on his grass-court preparations for Wimbledon, will turn out at the Bristol Lawn Tennis Club on

Island airlift

manager to Gerry Francis at Bristol Rovers, will defer a final decision until after the third division champions' appearance in the final of the Leyland Daf Cup at Wembley.

Colin Addison is likely to be offered a lucrative contract in Spain after saving Cádiz from

In his previous spell in Spain he led Celta to promotion from the second division only to be dismissed in the following pre-

[illegible]

OTHER MATCH: Army in Hatfield 5-0 (Army names first): Lt-Col P Watts bt Lt Sincelar, 4-4; 5-5; Major M Park; War bt P Barbery, 8-6; 3-5. P Fellows bt J Lottinck 5-3, 4-6; 8-4; Lt Ringwood bt S Earles 5-6; 6-3; Lt A Gordon

VITTELLA CUP: Isle of Wight regional heat: 1. Royal Yacht Squadron (T J R Skelton); 2. Royal Victoria YG (N Young); 3. Seaview YG (N Dobbs); 4. Island SC (G Peacham).

HOLYHEAD: UK youth national championship: 426: 1. C McGohe and S Purdie (Monklands SC); 2. J Bell and G Homer (Holy Loch SC); 3. D Edwards and M Nicholls (British Steel SC); Laser: 1. C Maxwell (Denholme SC); 2. F Blenke (Warrash SC); 3. A Odde (Warrash SC); Laser Radial: 1. R Mountford (Chesham SC); 2. P Dickinson (Bournemouth YC); 3. L Tappin (Humber SC).

**SUSSEX
WARWICKS.
WORCS.
YORKSHIRE**

County Scoreboard 0898 221 254
Minor Counties 0898 22 14 26

● YACHTING 40
● RACING 42, 43
● CRICKET 44

Sir Len's Oval record falls

By Ivo Tennant

THE OVAL: Surrey (4pts) drew with Lancashire (6)

AS SURREY and Lancashire demonstrated so ably, records set by batsmen were made only to be broken. The tally was into double figures yesterday when Neil Fairbrother achieved perhaps the most notable attainment of them all. His innings of 366 out of a total of 863 was the highest made at the Oval.

Lancashire's total was the ninth highest in the history of first-class cricket and only 24 runs short of the highest county-championship score, 887 by Yorkshire against Warwickshire in 1896. The 1,650 runs made in this match, which in terms of a contest became a farce, was the highest aggregate in championship cricket.

That Lancashire made their highest total in their 136-year history was not least because David Hughes, their captain, set out to bat out the match. The match, he reckoned, had been killed by Ian Greig's decision not to declare until the second afternoon and, besides, he wanted his bowlers to be fresh for their cup match today. It was a question of which captain was the more bloody-minded.

The pitch remained the kind which players from another era would have described as rolled marble. When Lancashire were 745 for three, it really did look as if they would make a four-figure score and that Fairbrother would exceed Archie MacLaren's 424, the record score in England (also, of course, for Lancashire).

That, though, was also in another era. These days the likes of Fairbrother have limited-overs cricket to contend with, and he felt drained after another record-breaking day on Sunday. Resuming on 311, he was dropped twice on 327 and was not the dominant batsman of Saturday. Greig found a method to keep him in relative check, bowling wide of off stump with three men in the vicinity of cover point.

Yet Fairbrother still managed to reach 350 by driving the Surrey captain through this cover ring and before long he had passed Sir Leonard Hutton's 364 here against Australia in 1938. Fairbrother,

SURREY: 707 for 9 dec (I A Greig 291, M Lynch 95, A J Stewart 70, R I Allmon 55).
Second innings
G S Clinton c Wadsworth b Atherton 15
A J Stewart not out 5
M Lynch not out 5
Extras (b 2, lb 1, nb 2) 5
Total (1 wk) 80
R I Allmon, G P Thorpe, D M Ward, I Greig, R T Modycott, M P Bicknell, N M Kendrick and A J Murphy did not bat.
FALL OF WICKET: 1-57.
BOWLING: DeFreitas 4-0-10-0; Fitter 16-4-42-0; Atherton 13-5-25-1.

LANCASHIRE: First Innings
G D Mendis run out 102
G Fowler run out 20
N H Fairbrother c Kendrick b Greig 366
T E Jessel run out 18
M Westwood c Greig b Bicknell 45
J W K Hogg c Ward b Bicknell 45
P A J DeFreitas b Murphy 51
D P Hughes not out 3
J D Fitter c Stewart b Murphy 3
B P Patterson c Greig b Modycott 23
Extras (b 2, lb 1, nb 1) 5
Total 863
Score at 100 overs: 401 for 2.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-49, 2-184, 3-548, 4-745, 5-774, 6-844, 7-848, 8-882.
BOWLING: Murphy 44-6-160-2; Bicknell 45-2-175-1; Kendrick 56-10-192-1; Modycott 50-5-177-1; Lynch 5-2-17-0; Greig 19-3-73-2; Thorpe 7-1-46-0.
Umpires: B Duckleson and A A Jones.

though, would be to admit that a comparison would be odious.

His was the third highest score in England, after MacLaren's innings in 1895 and Hick's unbeaten 405 two years ago. Both were against Somerset at Taunton. In four Tests for England, all of them in 1987 and 1988, Fairbrother's best score was a mere three.

When Fairbrother was out, ultimately frustrated by Greig and top-edging a pull, he had batted eight hours 24 minutes and hit five sixes and 47 fours. At home in Surrey's stockbroker belt, Hutton was pleased for him, although he does not favour four-day cricket. Hutton's own innings had taken 13 hours (the boundaries were not shortened as they were in this match), the pitch had been quicker and Fleetwood-Smith had gained some turn on the first day.

Hutton would like to see a return to uncovered pitches for all but one-day matches, and Harry Brind, the groundsman here as well as being the Test and County Cricket Board's inspector of pitches, did admit that this was not the ideal pitch. Although Lancashire's innings fell away once Fairbrother was out it was not because the ball was turning significantly.

Watkinson made 46 and Hogg 45, but with Jessy having pulled a muscle, some records did remain intact.



Champagne cricketer: Neil Fairbrother celebrates his 366 for Lancashire against Surrey at the Oval yesterday

HIGHEST COUNTY INNINGS

424	A C MacLaren	Lancs v Somerset	Taunton	1895	887
405*	G A Hick	Worce v Somerset	Taunton	1888	863
366	N H Fairbrother	Lancs v Surrey	The Oval	1990	803-4 dec
357*	R Abel	Surrey v Somerset	The Oval	1889	801
343*	P A Perrin	Essex v Derby	Chelmsford	1904	761-6 dec
341	G H Hirst	York v Leics	Leicester	1905	742
333	K S Duleep Singh	Sussex v Northants	Hove	1930	739-7 dec
332	W H Ashdown	Kent v Essex	Brentwood	1934	728
331*	J D Robertson	Lancs v Sussex	Worcester	1949	707-9 dec
322	E Paynter	Lancs v Sussex	Hove	1937	706-4 dec
322	I V A Richards	Somerset v Warwick	Taunton	1885	705-8 dec

* denotes not out

HIGHEST COUNTY TOTALS

Yorkshire v Warwickshire	Edgbaston	1896	1723 for 31 wks
Lancashire v Surrey	The Oval	1990	1650 for 21 wks
Surrey v Somerset	The Oval	1899	1601 for 29 wks
Kent v Essex	Brentwood	1934	1570 for 28 wks
Lancashire v Somerset	Chelmsford	1895	1530 for 19 wks
Essex v Lancashire	Chelmsford	1909	1507 for 28 wks
Surrey v Hampshire	Trent Bridge	1903	1502 for 26 wks
Notts v Sussex	The Oval	1895	1495 for 26 wks
Surrey v Lancashire	The Oval	1990	1477 for 26 wks
Surrey v Nottinghamshire	Trent Bridge	1947	1477 for 26 wks
Sussex v Surrey	Hastings	1902	1468 for 26 wks
Yorkshire v Surrey	The Oval	1899	1468 for 26 wks
Leics v Worcestershire	Worcester	1906	1468 for 26 wks

HIGHEST MATCH AGGREGATES

England v Australia	Headingley	1948	1448
Surrey v Lancashire	The Oval	1990	1390
England v Australia	Lord's	1930	1390
Essex v Kent	Chelmsford	1888	1388
Essex v Lancashire	Chelmsford	1930	1388
England v West Indies	The Oval	1976	1388
MCC v New Zealand	Lord's	1927	1388

Refers to first-class matches in England.
County details in previous columns refer to championship matches.

© Compiled by Richard Lockwood

UEFA sceptical at letting the English return

LENNART Johansson, the president of UEFA, yesterday repeated his warning that the violence of Leeds United's supporters at Bournemouth could have put back the readmission of English clubs to European competition — and he said that the issue would be decided on May 24 without waiting for a report on the behaviour of England followers at the World Cup.

Johansson, the Swede who backed the immediate return of the English when he was elected as head of European football's governing body last month, also criticized the Football Association for apparently ignoring police warnings of inadequate security at Dean Court on Saturday.

There were 73 arrests and more than 20 people were injured after an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 Leeds supporters tried to get in without tickets and created havoc. Leeds had been allocated 2,300 tickets for the match, which Leeds needed to win to ensure promotion from the second division and which Bournemouth needed to win to avoid relegation.

Johansson said yesterday: "After this, I am very sceptical about letting the English clubs back." English club sides were banned from European competitions after the 1985 Heysel

Stadium disaster in Belgium in which 39 people died. Johansson is due to meet Gerhard Aigner, the UEFA general secretary, Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, and officials of the Football Association at Wembley before the FA Cup final on Saturday. Johansson said the decision to let the Bournemouth game proceed despite police warnings could influence the decision.

The police chief in charge of supervising the Bournemouth-Leeds match called for the police to have the power of veto over certain fixtures. Chief Superintendent Les Burns was still angry that the League twice rejected applications for the fixture to be switched away from the Bank holiday weekend.

● MANNHEIM, West Germany: The police detained 75 after fighting between rival supporters following a first division match in which Fortuna Düsseldorf beat Mannheim 1-0 and probably relegated them (AP reports).

● AMSTERDAM: Ajax won the Dutch league title but their supporters invaded the pitch during the 1-1 draw at NEC Nijmegen. The game had to be suspended for 15 minutes. Police arrested 28 Ajax supporters after disturbances in the town.

Italian TV helps Moynihan's case

By John Goodbody

COLIN Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, has two main tasks today when he sees the Italian authorities to discuss final crowd-control arrangements for the World Cup.

The weekend hooliganism at Bournemouth that was shown on Italian television's most popular sports programme on Sunday should make Moynihan certain of having his requests granted. During his interview with the Interior Minister this morning, he will again press the authorities to impose a ban on all alcohol sales on the days of matches in Sardinia where England play their three first round games.

The widespread drinking in Bournemouth — where there were 73 arrests — was the latest episode in drink-related violence. Moynihan pressed this argument during his visit here last December but the Italians are reluctant to order a ban because it would hurt the tourist trade on the holiday island.

The Minister will also see Italia 90, the World Cup organizers. He wants to ensure that any spare tickets in the

part of the ground reserved for the English supporters will be returned to the Football Association so as not to ruin the policy of strict segregation.

There is surprise here that the British Government is unable to prevent known hooligans from travelling abroad. Under Part 2 of the Football Spectators Act, courts have the powers to make restriction orders, preventing anyone convicted of football-related offences from travelling to events like the World Cup. But because the Act only came into force on April 24, only a handful of convicted hooligans will be prevented from travelling to Sardinia and buying tickets on the black market.

The Italian TV programme, *La Domenica Sportiva*, showed the violence in Bournemouth and an official of the National Football Intelligence Unit, which coordinates the police work on hooliganism, picked out known trouble-makers. The programme did not, however, show the violence that occurred in other European countries at the weekend.

League's crowds reach eight-year high

By Louise Taylor

FOOTBALL congratulated itself yesterday on a season in which League attendances reached their highest level for eight years, but warned that there is no room for complacency.

Arthur Sandford, the chief executive of the League, is anxious that the fourth successive rise in total gates — at 19,450,987 up almost one million on last year — does not prompt premature self-satisfaction. "The message is that the product is a good one, but we must make it better," he said yesterday.

"There is still an awful lot of work to do if we are to provide spectators with good, comfortable facilities, but the message is getting across that improved security inside grounds means that they are largely safe places to go."

"But among the people I meet some still do not go to football because they have fears about safety, and by meeting the demands of the Taylor report over the coming seasons we hope to allay those worries."

To those who argue that the growth in attendances will

ATTENDANCES IN THE 1988-89 AND 1989-90 SEASONS

FIRST DIVISION

Club	1988-89	1989-90	Total	Average	Difference
Arsenal	676,305	755,525	1,431,830	33,672	-1,922
Aston Villa	442,890	523,310	966,200	25,544	+2,234
Charlton	176,262	239,398	415,660	10,783	+1,369
Coventry	301,615	357,731	659,346	16,982	+4,071
Derby	304,760	369,260	674,020	17,252	+1,746
Leeds	245,095	309,260	554,355	14,324	+6,668
Liverpool	523,184	575,525	1,098,709	27,540	+4
Manchester United	527,635	575,525	1,103,160	27,540	+1,294
Nottingham Forest	332,890	387,574	720,464	18,876	+1,598
Sheff Wed	180,576	239,398	419,974	10,783	+2,234
Sheff Wed	240,500	295,525	536,025	13,775	+4,475
Southampton	262,504	315,525	578,029	14,423	+2,995
Swindon	318,915	375,525	694,440	17,326	-3,74
Tottenham	266,210	315,525	581,735	14,543	+93
Wimbledon	464,873	548,834	1,013,707	25,370	+2,103

continue regardless, Sandford had a ready response: "You just need to look at gates in the 1950s to show how much further we have to go. One of my principal aims as chief executive is to see them continue to rise."

"Saturday's events will not have helped, but it has been a largely trouble-free season, and if England do well in the

SECOND DIVISION

Club	1988-89	1989-90	Total	Average	Difference
Bournemouth	196,001	207,101	403,102	10,078	-650
Barnsley	166,945	171,051	337,996	8,425	+1,806
Blackburn	204,493	218,247	422,740	10,569	+598
Bradford	242,052	255,275	497,327	12,433	+1,589
Brighton	208,104	218,247	426,351	10,659	+388
Hull	153,318	166,945	320,263	8,007	-154
Ipswich	202,899	218,247	421,146	10,529	+1,294
Leeds	501,553	518,211	1,019,764	25,494	+6,299
Leicester	245,982	255,275	501,257	12,531	+1,002
Millwall	373,361	387,574	760,935	19,023	+2,635
Newcastle	436,499	455,247	891,746	22,294	+1,388
Oldham	188,983	207,101	396,084	9,902	+2,518
Oxford	148,996	166,945	315,941	7,949	-544
Plymouth	196,444	218,247	414,691	10,367	+1,116
Port Vale	154,813	171,051	325,864	8,147	+2,321
Sheff Wed	261,108	275,525	536,633	13,416	+4,874
Sheff Wed	225,781	239,398	465,179	11,629	+2,635
Sheff Wed	342,184	375,525	717,709	17,943	+2,995
Sheff Wed	199,891	218,247	418,138	10,454	+734
Sheff Wed	282,716	295,525	578,241	14,456	+1,949
Sheff Wed	293,411	315,525	608,936	15,473	+2,518
Sheff Wed	284,022	307,101	591,123	14,778	+464
Sheff Wed	331,016	348,247	679,263	17,041	+2,649

World Cup it should have a positive effect on next season's gates. Football is still the world's greatest game."

The proposal to televise its championships live had drawn a public consensus that attendances would suffer. But Manchester United and Liverpool have found the reverse to be the case. Despite frequent visits from the television cam-

eras United regained the title of the best-supported club. They attracted 740,406 spectators for their 19 home League matches, an average of 38,969. Liverpool, who enjoyed the best support for the previous two seasons, averaged 36,974, compared with 37,727 last year and 36,689 in 1988.

Bill Fox, the League presi-

dent, insisted that football has the cameras to thank for boosting gate receipts. "Television games have helped to generate interest," he said. "I am the first to admit I thought it would work out the other way round, but there is no doubt that live Sunday afternoon games on television have played a large part in the rise in attendances."

"In the past, if you wanted to see Finney or Matthews you had to go and watch them live, but when people got out of the habit of going to football they forgot about it. It comes down to what you do not have you do not miss, and by watching players like Barnes and Gascoigne on television people are obviously inspired to go back and see it for themselves."

"There has been no trouble at the live televised matches, and this will also have helped to convince people it is safe to go to football."

Fox also believed that a decline in the long-hall approach had increased attendances. "There is no doubt that the long hall did not do football any favours," he said. "But it seems to be going out of fashion."

Smith's dream wrecked

By Barry Pickthall

LAWRIE Smith's £4 million dream of winning the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race lay in ruins after a £13,000 cobalt rod shroud supporting the mast of his maxi, Rothmans, broke early yesterday as the British yacht was vying for the lead, 38 hours after setting out from Fort Lauderdale on the final stage of the race back to Southampton.

Only the reflex action of the crew in turning the boat on to the opposite tack saved them from being dismasted. "There was no warning," Smith told *The Times*. "It went with a loud bang. We only just managed to save the rig."

Last night the crew was heading due west for Georgetown, South Carolina, where the yacht's pit crew was waiting to fit replacement rigging. "If all goes well, we should have the boat turned round and back in the race within an hour," Mike Pavitt, Rothmans' project manager, said, optimistically.

The damage occurred while Rothmans was pounding heavily through the steep, standing waves of the fast-moving Gulf Stream, whipped up by 23-knot northerly headwinds. "Now the race is to protect our fourth place overall from The Card and Charles Jourdan," Smith said. The diversion to replace the rod stay is expected to cost Smith and his crew at least 30 hours on the leaders, cutting deeply into the four-day advantage the British yacht holds over the fifth- and sixth-placed yachts. Last night the lead had been taken up by Fisher & Paykel.

New Scottish stadium will be finest in Europe

Plans for a £100 million national sports stadium in Scotland, which would be commercially viable, were unveiled in Glasgow yesterday.

The men behind the plan to build Europe's finest stadium within the next five years said they would be able to raise the money needed to finance such an ambitious project.

The stadium, earmarked for Strathclyde Park in Lanarkshire, would replace Hampden Park as the home to the

Scottish national football matches and cup finals.

One of the scheme's principal backers, Dr John Reid, a local MP, said that a purpose-built ground is the only realistic remedy to Hampden's problems and the edict from FIFA that all World Cup qualifying ties must be played in all-seater grounds from 1992.

Dr Reid, who is part of a steering group formed nine months ago to explore the possibility of a new sports

stadium, said: "We are on the verge of a major breakthrough. We believe we have surmounted the financial problems for a new stadium with the assistance of Strathclyde Region, the relevant districts and the private sector."

"We have answered the problem of how to raise the money and have put forward a commercially-viable business scheme. Given the resolution of some outstanding planning

issues, we feel the project commands wholesale support."

"We are not at the starting blocks... we are approaching the home straight," Dr Reid said. The 65,000 capacity stadium would include an eight-lane athletics track and retractable roof modelled on the Toronto Skydome.

However, the MP for Motherwell North is emphatic that the scheme is a practical one. The new site would be

turned into a thriving commercial area, close to the M74 motorway and with parking space for 36,000 cars.

"The only choice is between a new national stadium or a patch-up job on Hampden," he said. "We have looked at Hampden and, really, there is only one choice. For 20 years there has been talk of a new stadium but now the dream is near reality."

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